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ANNIVERSARY
1941 - 1991

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-91-074
Wednesday
17 April 1991

Daily Report
East Asia

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Japan

Gorbachev Continues Visit

First Round of Kaifu-Gorbachev Talks Viewed

OW1704023791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0118 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Tuesday that the Soviet Union wants to conclude a peace treaty with Japan in Moscow sometime next year at the earliest following mutual visits by the leaders of the two nations, Soviet sources said Wednesday.

In the first round of the talks on Tuesday afternoon at the Akasaka State Guesthouse, Kaifu and Gorbachev agreed on the importance of mutual visits to each other's capitals by the two nations' leaders in developing Japan-Soviet relations stalled by the territorial dispute over four Soviet-held islands off northeastern Japan.

As the first step, Gorbachev invited Kaifu to visit the Soviet Union and Kaifu accepted the invitation, Japanese officials said.

The officials said the two leaders also agreed that bilateral relations needed drastic improvement, but refused to give details of their discussions on the thorny territorial issue.

According to the Soviet sources accompanying Gorbachev on his four-day visit to Japan, Gorbachev intends to visit Tokyo again early next year to reciprocate Kaifu's possible visit to Moscow, which may take place in August.

The Soviet Government plans to conclude a peace treaty at the summit talks in Moscow following Gorbachev's next visit to Japan, the Soviet sources said.

Japan has cited the return of the four islands seized by the Soviets after the end of the World War II as a precondition for the conclusion of a peace treaty.

The sources also said that the Soviet side is finding it difficult to include concrete proposals concerning the settlement of the territorial issue in the joint statement to be issued on Thursday after the conclusion of Gorbachev's talks with Kaifu.

The Soviets, however, are ready to incorporate the word "territorial issue" in the joint statement as the first step toward the solution of the problem.

Japan has tried to persuade the Soviet Union to reaffirm a 1956 joint declaration promising to turn over two of the four islands and to include such a reaffirmation in the document to be released on Thursday.

The Soviet sources noted that Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, Gorbachev's archrival, will sharply react against the president, if such reaffirmation is included in the joint statement.

The Russian Republic, the largest among the 15 republics in the Soviet Union, administers the four disputed islands.

Kaifu and Gorbachev are scheduled to have the second and third rounds of their talks on Wednesday to further discuss bilateral and international issues.

But their discussions are expected to center on the territorial issue, which has been a persistent stumbling block to the development of full-fledged political and economic relations between Japan and the Soviet Union.

Sakamoto, Ignatenko Brief on Results

OW1704090791 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto met with reporters this evening after attending the first round of talks between Prime Minister Kaifu and President Gorbachev, and disclosed details of the talks.

He said that the two leaders held frank talks on various issues concerning a proposed peace treaty, including the Northern Territories issue. They also discussed the content of the 15 agreements which are to be signed, noting that the two countries need these agreements to improve bilateral relations, he added.

Sakamato said that he found President Gorbachev to be a distinctive and broad-minded person. He noted that the Japanese and Soviet leaders agreed on the need for building up favorable bilateral relations through a series of talks.

At the first round of talks, Prime Minister Kaifu initially expressed his desire to conclude a peace treaty with the Soviet Union by settling the Northern Territories issue. He thus clarified Japan's official stance in a dignified manner, according to Sakamato.

Meanwhile, Vitaliy Ignatenko, the Soviet presidential spokesman, also held a news conference this evening on the results of the summit talks. He said that Kaifu and Gorbachev had discussed overall bilateral relations, including the territorial issue and economic cooperation, noting that they discussed the territorial issue in a business-like and friendly manner.

Ignatenko said that at the three-hour talks the two leaders discussed issues concerned on Japanese-Soviet relations, including the territorial issue and economic cooperation.

According to Ignatenko, Gorbachev highly rated the opportunity for talks with Kaifu, saying that the time had come eventually to discuss problems pending between the two nations. Gorbachev then proposed to improve bilateral relations qualitatively, saying that in some areas bilateral relations have been satisfactory but in others they have been stagnant a long time.

Ignatenko said that the two leaders discussed the Northern Territories issue in a businesslike, friendly, and sincere manner. They reportedly acknowledged that there were no taboo topics at the bilateral talks.

Ignatenko, however, avoided referring to details of the discussion on the territorial issue.

Gorbachev Meets SDP Opposition Leader Doi

OW1704053991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0430 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told Social Democratic Party Chairwoman Takako Doi on Wednesday that he has an idea or a concept to help resolve the territorial dispute with Japan.

Gorbachev, however, did not give details of his idea to bring the Japan-Soviet territorial dispute to a peaceful solution, Doi, leader of Japan's largest opposition party, said.

Japan claims ownership of the islands—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of islets—which the Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II.

Doi, briefing reporters about her 45-minute session over breakfast with Gorbachev at the Akasaka Guesthouse, said she called on the Kremlin leader to decide on the return of the four islands in line with the wishes of the Japanese people.

In response, Gorbachev said he knows the Japanese people want the Soviet Government to give the four islands back to Japan, but that an overwhelming majority of the Soviet people are opposed to the return of the islands.

The Soviet leader then said, "I have an idea to resolve the territorial issue and I would like to develop the concept," according to Doi.

Gorbachev also said he will endeavor to make Soviet-Japan relations closer than ever before.

Referring to Soviet-U.S. relations, he said Moscow will continue efforts to maintain good relations between the two superpowers.

Gorbachev told Doi the improvement of Soviet-Japan relations will not run counter to good Soviet-U.S. relations.

On perestroyka, Doi told Gorbachev that it is essential to make the Soviet political and economic restructuring a success and establish a more secure and peaceful world.

Gorbachev replied that many contradictions have emerged during the process of perestroyka and that the Soviet Communist Party will compile a new party platform this year to pave the way for social democracy, Doi said. [Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 0300 GMT on 17 April, in a 1.5-minute report on the Gorbachev-Doi meeting, adds the following: "Finally, President Gorbachev expressed his intention to welcome Social Democratic Party Chairwoman Doi's visit to the Soviet Union, saying: I want to invite you to the Soviet Union."]

2d Round of Kaifu-Gorbachev Talks Begin

OW1704045191 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who is now on a visit to Japan, began the second round of his summit talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu this morning. The talks, centering on the international situation, are still underway. The third round of talks is scheduled for this evening; at this round, the number of conferees will be reduced to the minimum. Thus the talks on the northern territories issue, the focal point, are coming to a most important turning point.

[Reporter Kenzo Sano of the Political Department] I am reporting to you from the Foreign Ministry.

The second round of summit talks between Prime Minister Kaifu and President Gorbachev started at 0940 [0040 GMT] this morning at the State Guesthouse. It is still continuing at this moment.

According to information obtained so far, the subjects being taken up for discussion at the talks are international developments, including East-West relations, centering around U.S.-Soviet ties; the post-Gulf war Middle East security issue; and the Asian-Pacific situation, including the Korean peninsula and Cambodian questions.

President Gorbachev is particularly interested in the Asian- Pacific situation. He seems to be proposing the establishment of a new council for holding comprehensive consultations on the security of the Asian-Pacific region.

The basic position of the Japanese side on this question is that efforts should be made for the resolution of separate issues, such as Cambodia, the Korean peninsula and Japanese-Soviet relations, before establishing the Soviet-proposed comprehensive council in the Asian-Pacific region. It appears that Prime Minister Kaifu is explaining this Japanese viewpoint to President Gorbachev.

The northern territories issue, the focal point, is to be taken up at length at the third round of summit talks, which is scheduled for this evening. The third round is expected to be held with the participants limited to a very small number, including the two top leaders.

At the first round of talks yesterday, President Gorbachev acknowledged the existence of the territorial issue and proposed that consultations on the territorial issue and the issue of concluding a Japanese-Soviet peace treaty be continued, elevating the level of the Japanese-Soviet peace treaty working group, which currently is at the vice ministerial level. He proposed elevating it either to the summit level or the foreign ministerial level.

The Japanese side holds fast to its basic position that recognition by the Soviet side of the Japanese sovereign rights over the four northern islands should come first. However, the view is emerging from some quarters in the government that the Soviet proposal for elevating the level of consultation should be examined positively.

The Japanese side believes that the third round, scheduled for this evening, which will be the last scheduled one, will be the most important turning point. At the third round, Prime Minister Kaifu is expected to take up the 1956 Japanese-Soviet Joint Declaration, which expressly states that the two islands of Habomai and Shikotan will be returned, and maintain that under international law, the return of the two islands is an already resolved issue. He is expected to press for the Soviet confirmation of the joint declaration on the grounds that abiding by a treaty is an obligation on the part of the Soviet Union.

The Japanese side wants by all means to draw forth a progressive reply from President Gorbachev to the effect that the Soviets will hold talks on the territorial issue, using the joint declaration as the starting point.

I have reported to you from the Foreign Ministry.

Gorbachev Calls for Security Framework

OW1704051291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0450 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Wednesday proposed the establishment of a five-nation security framework in the Asia-Pacific region, Japanese officials said.

The officials said Gorbachev made the proposal in a meeting with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, saying the framework would consist of the United States, China, India in addition to the Soviet Union and Japan.

The meeting, which lasted nearly two and a half hours, focused primarily on international issues, including East-West ties, the situation in the Middle East, and security in the Asia-Pacific region, the officials said.

It was the second round of talks between the two leaders since Gorbachev arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday for a four-day state visit.

Japanese officials said Kaifu expressed "strong concern" in Wednesday's meeting over the transfer of Soviet forces east of the Ural mountains—the traditional geographical boundary between Europe and Asia.

The officials said Kaifu also underlined the importance of cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union, saying cooperation between the superpowers "is important to the prosperity of mankind."

Turning to the Korean peninsula, Kaifu expressed concern about possible development of nuclear weapons by North Korea and said Pyongyang should allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities, Japanese officials said.

Gorbachev, who will be traveling to South Korea after his four- day trip to Japan, said he appreciates the efforts Japan is making to normalize ties with North Korea.

Gorbachev also called for international efforts to bridge the gap between the northern and southern hemispheres, Japanese officials said.

Gorbachev, Kaifu Diverge on Security

OW1704062391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0544 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Wednesday differed in their assessments of the best way to achieve peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, Foreign Ministry officials said.

They said Gorbachev proposed the convening of a meeting among the Soviet Union, Japan, China, India, and the United States to discuss setting up of a multilateral forum on security and cooperation issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

He made the proposal in a two-and-a-half-hour meeting with Kaifu at the Akasaka State Guesthouse in central Tokyo, and was expected to expand on it in an address later in the day before the Japanese Diet.

But Kaifu, responding to the proposal, said Japan considers it more effective to tackle regional problems one by one, instead of in a comprehensive manner.

He said it would be difficult, for example, to find a solution to the problems of the Korean peninsula through an international gathering.

Rejecting the concept put forward by Gorbachev of an Asian version of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), Kaifu stressed that the situation in Asia is not of the same nature as that in Europe, where two giant military blocs had until recently confronted each other.

Japan's position, he said, is that raising the level of development of the countries of the Asia-Pacific region in a comprehensive manner is the best way to achieve peace and stability.

Offering an alternative mechanism to facilitate the Soviet Union's integration into the region, Kaifu said that Soviet participation in the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference (PECC) would likely be considered by the present members of the forum, which is comprised of participants from both the public and private sectors.

Moscow has voiced a wish for full membership of PECC, which was formed in 1980. In 1989, it sent an observer delegation to the fifth PECC conference in Vancouver, Canada.

Gorbachev said his idea does not envisage a European blueprint for security being forced on Asia. He said it is intended as a logical step in the trend emerging in the region, where multilateral cooperation and dialogue is increasing.

Kaifu expressed concern over the Soviet Union's transfer of thousands of weapons and vehicles, including tanks and warplanes, to storage depots east of the Ural Mountains—the traditional geographical boundary between Europe and Asia—to escape destruction under the 21-nation Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) agreement signed in Paris last fall.

Japan is wary that the transfer is bringing about a qualitative upgrading of Soviet forces in the Far East which would be incompatible with the present period of relaxed tensions.

The Soviet leader for his part expressed concern over the gap between the North and South, saying the industrial countries of the northern hemisphere should not regard those countries in the southern hemisphere as mere suppliers of raw materials.

Kaifu said Japan is concerned over North Korea's refusal to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities to ensure it is not developing a nuclear weapons capability.

Officials would not divulge Gorbachev's response.

Soviet presidential spokesman Vitaliy Ignatenko said Monday that Moscow has warned North Korea it will stop "all kinds of supplies and cooperation" if Pyongyang refuses to allow the inspections.

Moscow has supplied North Korea with nuclear fuel under a 1985 agreement.

Prior to the talks with Kaifu, Gorbachev met with Japanese opposition leader Takako Doi, chairwoman of the Social Democratic Party, over breakfast at the Akasaka State Guesthouse, where the Soviet president and his wife Raisa are staying.

In the first session of talks between Kaifu and Gorbachev on Tuesday they discussed bilateral ties, including Japan's demand for the return of four islands off northeastern Hokkaido seized by the Soviets at the end of World War II.

Kaifu urged the Soviet president to acknowledge Japanese sovereignty over the four islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai islets—but neither Japanese nor Soviet officials would divulge details of the talks.

Japan has refused to conclude a peace treaty with the Soviet Union and is withholding any significant economic help to Moscow pending a settlement of the dispute.

Kaifu and Gorbachev agreed on Tuesday that the leaders of the two countries should meet more frequently, and Kaifu accepted Gorbachev's invitation to Kaifu [as received] to visit Moscow, officials said.

According to the Soviet sources traveling with Gorbachev, the Soviet leader intends to visit Tokyo again early next year to reciprocate Kaifu's visit to Moscow, which may take place in August.

The Soviet Government hopes to conclude a peace treaty to normalize ties at the summit talks in Moscow following Gorbachev's next visit to Japan, the Soviet sources said.

The sources said the Soviet side is ready to incorporate the words "territorial issue" in a joint statement to be released Thursday but is reluctant to include any concrete proposal on the subject.

Japan is trying to persuade the Soviet Union to reaffirm a 1956 joint declaration promising to turn over two of the four islands and to include such a reaffirmation in the joint statement. [passage omitted]

Further on Security Framework

OW1704084091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0750 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev unveiled a plan for an Asia-Pacific security framework Wednesday, calling on the United States, Japan, China, and India to join the Soviet Union in exploring the concept of a new order in the region.

Gorbachev unveiled the Asian security proposal first in a meeting with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and expanded on the theme in an address to a joint session of the Diet, Japan's legislature.

In his first major policy speech on the Asia-Pacific in nearly three years, Gorbachev also called for a "new relationship" with Japan, and proposed initiating trilateral consultations between Tokyo, Moscow, and Washington as a confidence building measure.

The legislators who listened to the 45-minute speech applauded politely at times, but remained silent when the Soviet leader outlined his Asian version of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), mirroring the unenthusiastic response it received from Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu during their two and a half hours of talks held during the morning.

The meeting, which took place at the Akasaka Guesthouse, was the second of three scheduled sessions between the two leaders since Gorbachev arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday for four-day visit.

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said Kaifu told Gorbachev Japan considers it more effective to tackle regional problems one by one, and that in any case the situation in Asia is not of the same nature as that in Europe.

Japan has in the past responded coolly to such suggestions, citing the need to first resolve outstanding issues such as the Cambodian conflict, tensions on the Korean peninsula, and Japan's own territorial dispute with the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev said the five Asia-Pacific powers should meet in order to pave the way for the creation of an Asian security forum, which he first proposed in 1986 in a speech in Vladivostok in the Soviet Far East.

In his talks with Kaifu, Gorbachev said his idea does not envisage a European blueprint for security being forced on Asia. He said it is intended as a logical step in the trend emerging in the region, where multilateral cooperation and dialogue is increasing.

The Soviet leader expressed "understanding" of Japan's bid to play an active role in arriving at a settlement of the Cambodian conflict, and welcomed Japan's discussions with North Korea on establishing diplomatic relations.

He also proposed "a security conference and a zone of cooperation to be established in Northeast Asia and the Sea of Japan" and renewed a proposal to convene an Asia-Pacific foreign ministers' meeting in 1993.

He called for arms reduction in Asia and the Pacific, a process which he said "could develop at a faster pace if the other naval powers followed suit."

The United States, which has an advantage in terms of naval power in the Pacific, has not responded favorably to Soviet calls for naval arms reduction. The Soviet Union has more ground forces in the region.

Gorbachev described his summit talks with Kaifu as "the beginning of a breakthrough" in bilateral relations.

He referred obliquely to strains in bilateral ties, but made no direct reference to how the two nations might resolve a decades-old dispute over ownership of four islands off Hokkaido, seized by the Soviets at the close of World War II.

"Past mistakes should be corrected with prudence and due regard for the obvious fact that over the decades a new reality has emerged," he said.

Kaifu expressed concern in his Wednesday morning meeting with Gorbachev over the Soviet Union's transfer of thousands of tanks and warplanes east of the Ural Mountains—the traditional geographical boundary between Europe and Asia—allegedly to escape destruction under the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) agreement signed in Paris last fall.

Japan is wary that the transfer is bringing about a qualitative upgrading of Soviet forces in the Far East which it feels would be incompatible with the present period of relaxed tensions.

Kaifu said Japan is concerned over North Korea's refusal to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities to ensure it is not developing a nuclear weapons capability.

Gorbachev agreed, and said the Soviet Union has urged North Korea to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Soviet presidential spokesman Vitaliy Ignatenko told reporters in a separate briefing on Wednesday's summit meeting.

Prior to the talks with Kaifu, Gorbachev met Japanese opposition leader Takako Doi, chairwoman of the Social Democratic Party, over breakfast at the Akasaka State Guesthouse, where the Soviet president and his wife Raisa are staying.

In the first session of talks between Kaifu and Gorbachev on Tuesday they discussed bilateral ties, including Japan's demand for the return of the four islands.

Kaifu urged the Soviet president to acknowledge Japanese sovereignty over the four islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai islets—but neither Japanese nor Soviet officials would divulge details of the talks.

Japan has refused to conclude a peace treaty with the Soviet Union and is withholding any significant economic help to Moscow pending a settlement of the dispute.

Kaifu and Gorbachev agreed Tuesday that the leaders of the two countries should meet more frequently, and Kaifu accepted Gorbachev's invitation to Kaifu to visit Moscow, officials said.

According to the Soviet sources traveling with Gorbachev, the Soviet leader intends to visit Tokyo again early next year to reciprocate Kaifu's visit to Moscow, which may take place in August.

The Soviet Government hopes to conclude a peace treaty to normalize ties at the summit talks in Moscow following Gorbachev's next visit to Japan, the Soviet sources said.

The sources said the Soviet side is ready to incorporate the words "territorial issue" in a joint statement to be released Thursday but is reluctant to include any concrete proposal on the subject. [passage omitted]

Ignatenko Holds Briefing on Talks

OW1704124591 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Vitaliy Ignatenko, President Mikhail Gorbachev's spokesman, held a news conference today on the second round of the Japanese-Soviet summit talks. In the news conference, the spokesman said that President Gorbachev and Prime Minister Kaifu had exchanged views on the situations in five regions, including the Asia-Pacific region and the Korean peninsula, and disclosed that President Gorbachev had expressed his satisfaction with the results of the summit talks thus far.

According to the spokesman, during their exchange on the situation on the Korean peninsula, the Japanese and Soviet leaders expressed deep concern over North Korea's nuclear development and shared the view that any related research should be placed under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. On the Middle East issue, they also agreed that the issue should be resolved comprehensively. President Gorbachev pointed out that Iraq should not be pushed into an impasse and that it should be allowed to participate in the process of resolving the Middle East issue. The Soviet president highly rated the relations of cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States in the Gulf war and President Bush's political role, and predicted that such relations would be maintained in the future.

Talks Called 'Inconclusive'

OW1704115591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1132 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu held inconclusive talks on the territorial dispute between the two nations for the second straight day Wednesday and agreed to have another try Thursday, Japanese officials said.

A Japanese Foreign Ministry official described the exchanges Wednesday afternoon—their second session in the day—as "frank and serious" but would not divulge the substance of the discussion except that it focused on the territorial dispute.

The two leaders dwelt on the territorial issue for talks that lasted one hour and 45 minutes, but were unable to conclude their discussion and agreed to meet again on Thursday, the official said.

The dispute concerns Japan's demand for the return of four islands off Hokkaido seized by the Soviets at the end of World War II.

Kaifu was accompanied by two senior Foreign Ministry officials and Gorbachev by a personal aide in the meeting, held at the Akasaka State Guesthouse.

The morning session was primarily devoted to international issues.

Japanese officials said the two leaders addressed the territorial dispute, and issues surrounding a pending peace treaty, from a broad perspective. Kaifu was said to have made a detailed presentation of Japan's position on the territorial dispute.

Officials said the fourth session Thursday will take place after Gorbachev makes a morning sight-seeing trip in Tokyo.

The Soviet leader is scheduled to tour the Shinjuku Imperial Gardens, where cherry blossoms are in full bloom, and a visit to the newly built Tokyo City Hall, the tallest building in Japan, Thursday morning.

Gorbachev, accompanied by his wife Raisa, arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday for a four-day state visit.

Gorbachev Addresses Diet on Security Framework

OW1704073691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0715 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev proposed Wednesday holding a five-nation regional conference as a first step toward establishing a multilateral security framework in Asia.

Gorbachev, in his first major policy speech on the Asia-Pacific in nearly three years, also called for a "new relationship" with Japan, and proposed initiating trilateral consultations between Japan, the Soviet Union, and the United States as a confidence building measure.

"It is not part of our intentions to undermine the politico-military structures that exist in the region," he told a plenary session of the House of Representatives of the bicameral Diet, or parliament.

Rather, the Soviet Union expects the military aspect of international relations to become less important, he said.

Gorbachev named Japan, the Soviet Union, the United States, China and India as nations that would meet in order to pave the way for the security forum, which he first proposed in 1986 in a speech in Vladivostok in the Soviet Far East.

Japan has in the past responded coolly to such suggestions, citing the need to first resolve outstanding issues such as the Cambodian conflict, tensions on the Korean peninsula, and Japan's own territorial dispute with the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev in the speech expressed "understanding" of Japan's bid to play an active role in arriving at a settlement of the Cambodian conflict, and welcomed Japan's discussions with North Korea on establishing diplomatic relations.

"I think it is time we really came to grips with the idea of a security conference and a zone of cooperation to be established in Northeast Asia and the Sea of Japan," he said, reiterating a proposal to convene an Asian-Pacific foreign ministers meeting in 1993.

"We intend to reduce the military presence in Asia and the Pacific—a process that could develop at a faster pace if the other naval powers followed suit," he said.

The United States, which enjoys a naval advantage in the Pacific, has not responded favorably to Soviet calls for naval arms reduction. The Soviet Union has more ground forces in the region.

In the 45-minute speech, Gorbachev described summit talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu as "the beginning of a breakthrough" in relations.

But he declined to give details of how the two leaders might resolve the 46-year-old disagreement over ownership of four islands off Hokkaido, seized by the Soviets at the close of World War II.

"Past mistakes should be corrected with prudence and due regard for the obvious fact that over the decades a new reality has emerged," he said.

It was not clear what particular events he was referring to.

During his visit, the first to Japan by a Soviet leader, Gorbachev has also made a point of seeking to redress the ill feelings that have lingered in Japan over the postwar detainment of Japanese Prisoners of War (POW's) in Siberian labor camps.

World War II was fought in a different world that has now become a thing of the past, and under leaders of a past generation, Gorbachev said, "we cannot be held responsible for what they did or said."

It is in the interests of both nations, and the world to see a breakthrough in relations, he said. "Without Japan it would be impossible to speak about contemporary progress, or a new international order we have just started to develop."

Gorbachev signaled a larger role for the Russian Federation in determining the fate of the islands. It is essential for the two countries to build further "confidence potential" by increasing economic, political and humanitarian cooperation, and cooperation with Soviet republics, starting with the Russian Federation.

Accompanying Gorbachev on his four-day state visit are Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and other ranking leaders of the federation, which has jurisdiction over the disputed territories.

Turning to troubled economic and political affairs at home, Gorbachev admitted that he is facing a crisis, but sought to reassure the international community that his perestroyka reforms are irreversible.

Gorbachev defended recent harsh steps to ban strikes and consolidate central authority, saying they were necessary measures to keep his reforms on course.

Otherwise, he warned, the country may be thrown into chaos and a dictatorship could emerge.

"It is highly important that our problems are understood correctly by the world community and primarily by all those who are in a position to influence the mainstream of world politics," he said.

'Excerpts' of Diet Speech

OW1704080491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0738 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—The following are excerpts from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's speech to the Diet delivered at the House of Representatives as released by the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

(Talks With Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu)

Our talks with Kaifu and Japan's other political leaders proceeded in a positive atmosphere. I think they will pave the way for a new relationship between the Soviet Union and Japan. There were no "taboo" subjects, we did not eschew polemical topics or skate over differences and disputed assessments in an indication of candor and nascent trust between us.

(Regional Defense)

We still feel that trust is lacking despite the Soviet Union's statement that it will never launch an attack on Japan and the fact that Japan has seemingly begun to overcome its fear of the "Soviet military threat." Our new military doctrine, which logically extends to the East, is predicated exclusively on the principle of defense sufficiency.

We intend to reduce the Soviet military presence in Asia and the Pacific—a process that could develop at a faster pace if the other naval powers followed suit.

It is my hope that Tokyo will take all this under careful and thorough advisement.

I find it essential to underscore that the Soviet Union stands ready to begin a concrete dialogue with Japan on military issues, which might alleviate either side's concerns. Our proposals on the subject already have been conveyed to your government.

I also think it might be advisable to begin trilateral Soviet-Japanese-U.S. consultations in an effort, as we see it, to remove suspicions and build confidence through concrete agreements.

It is not part of our intentions to undermine the politico-military structures that exist in the region. But we are betting on the inevitability of some ultimate evolution of developments, in the course of which the military aspects of international relations will become less relevant.

Given the favorable fallout from the policy of new thinking, not only in our relations with the United States and Europe but also with Asian and Pacific countries, we see no reason for abandoning it. Otherwise, we would not have been able to strengthen effectively our security as we understand it today, not to mention the fact that the policy of new thinking has enabled us to proceed with reductions in the onerous burden of military spending.

(On Asia-Pacific Regional Affairs)

We would find it natural and in line with the imperatives of this moment if Japan established diplomatic relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We approach with understanding Japan's intention to play an active part in a Cambodian settlement.

We feel that the idea of a multilateral forum on security and cooperation problems remains as relevant as ever. Sooner or later, life will make us accept that idea.

As a first step in this direction we might consider holding a five-party conference with the Soviet Union, the United States, China, India, and Japan taking part. Also, we confirm our proposal to convene in 1993 a foreign ministers' meeting of the Asia-Pacific countries.

I think it is time we really came to grips with the idea of a security conference and a zone of cooperation to be established in Northeast Asia and the Sea of Japan. The Soviet Union stands to gain if the economy of Soviet Far East and Siberia were to be linked up with the emerging economic complex of Asia and the Pacific.

(On Japan-Soviet Relations)

Our countries share a lot of experiences which have left ill feeling and bitterness in the hearts and minds of both nations. What is to be done about it? We may cultivate the past and cherish our recriminations. This will be an exercise in futility. We should take a different path and reassess our common heritage for the sake of the present and the future.

World War II had broken out and was fought in quite a different world, which has become a thing of the past—along with its perceptions, laws, and "rules of the game." That's what history is all about.

Decisions which were taken then were taken by people of a different generation who did not see things the way we do. And we cannot be held responsible for what they did or said. At the same time, past mistakes should be corrected with prudence and due regard to the obvious fact that over the decades a new reality has emerged which must be reckoned with.

So let us do our utmost for the memories of the past to inspire peoples to build their relations on a sound, up-to-date and reasonable foundation, and let us not have them keep peoples apart.

It is totally unacceptable that the Soviet Union and Japan should still have no peace treaty that would also legally draw the line under World War II. We must proceed in this direction taking on board every positive element which has been gained in our postwar relationship.

What is essential is that we work to build further confidence potential and develop comprehensive cooperation that would embrace economic, political, and humanitarian collaboration, state-to-state and regional contacts and cooperation with Soviet constituent republics, starting with the Russian Federation—the largest republic that has a common border with Japan and well- developed long-standing direct cooperative links. The [words indistinct] may also involve cooperation between individual businesses, firms, tourist companies, and other forms of free exchanges between people.

(On Domestic Affairs in the Soviet Union)

We are moving toward a new kind of society. However, it is a very painstaking process indeed. Such fundamental, revolutionary changes in such a vast country and diverse society beset with problems, with an abnormal economy and dogma-ridden consciousness could not have gone smoothly.

A bitter political struggle has got under way, in which—given a low level of political culture—"no holds barred" is the approach of many. Against the background of disintegration of the national economy, this has led to mounting social instabilities.

In a word, the situation in the country can be described as difficult and even dramatic.

It is my opinion that the changes which have occurred are irreversible. The society is different from what it used to be, and nobody can possibly take it back to square one.

The course toward a radical economic reform, the reform of the union and the political system, and the establishment of the rule of law shall not be changed.

I am confident that this course will strike an optimum balance between stabilization and conditions for a market economy, the functioning of a law-based state and solutions to the problems of a vast multinational state.

Adventurism and extremes are dangerous things, particularly at this moment in time. The centrist policy line by which I stand is geared to a sense of responsibility and a new innovative approach. There is a possibility of a civil showdown if this policy line is abandoned and if it fails to rally democratic supporters.

If we fail to halt the disintegration of the state—the economy, legality, the interrelations among republics, and if we let the new social processes get out of hand, the country may really be thrown into chaos from which a dictatorship emerges.

Therefore, we have to take within the constitutional framework unpopular measures, some of them administrative, which many people inside and outside the Soviet Union regard as a change of course. This is a wrong conclusion.

Everything we do now is necessary precisely in order to keep perestroyka on course and at the same time create prerequisites for an even more resolute progress of reform.

(On the Environment)

Scientists warn that the global climate and the entire ecosystem will undergo irreversible change unless something is done within the next few decades. That would be tantamount to a drawn-out nuclear catastrophe. Mother Nature signals a clear-cut warning that we must halt the arms race and reckless conflicts, the insane squandering of resources, and redirect our energies, will, and talent to salvaging the human habitat and thereby the very life on earth.

Reaction to Diet Speech

OW1704121991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1200 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at the Diet on Wednesday was welcomed by political leaders, but some expressed regret that he failed to mention his position on the settlement of the territorial dispute with Japan.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said of Gorbachev's speech, "I found something moving in it. I would rate the content highly."

Kaifu, however, refused to comment further to reporters, saying any remarks he might make could have some effect on his talks with Gorbachev.

Keizo Obuchi, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said he valued the speech because Gorbachev spoke frankly of the difficulties the Soviet Union faces and that he restored his hope in the success of perestroyka.

Obuchi said it would be better if Gorbachev had clarified his position on the settlement of the territorial dispute.

Takako Doi, chairwoman of the Social Democratic Party, said Gorbachev showed a humanitarian attitude in his desire to tackle peace issues, disarmament and the environment.

The leader of the largest opposition party said Gorbachev's visit would be a significant event in the search for a solution to the territorial dispute.

Koshiro Ishida, chairman of No. 2 opposition Komeito, said it was an excellent speech with insight and substance, but he regretted that Gorbachev failed to give any hint about a solution to the territorial issue.

Keigo Ouchi, chairman of the minor opposition Democratic Socialist Party, echoed Ishida's view.

Tetsuzo Fuwa, presidium chairman of the Japanese Communist Party, said Gorbachev virtually said the Soviet Union need not redress its "policy of favoring great powers and hegemonism."

A top Foreign Ministry official said there is a gap between Gorbachev's call for a multilateral regional conference for the establishment of a security framework in Asia and Japan's position.

Japan maintains that settlements of regional disputes and contributions to the development of regional economies should take priority, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Gorbachev Meets With Keidanren Chairman

OW1704045091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0435 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Japanese business leader Gaishi Hiraiwa called Wednesday for Soviet efforts to settle the decades-long territorial dispute with Japan and to promote political and economic stability as a prerequisite for wider bilateral economic ties between the two countries.

Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), told Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that Japanese business circles strongly expect that his visit to Japan will lead to the conclusion of a peace treaty between the two countries.

During the first round of summit talks, Gorbachev and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu discussed the territorial issue but neither side disclosed the contents of their discussions.

Japan has long called for the return of four Soviet-held islands—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai Group of islets—and conclusion of a peace treaty.

Hiraiwa, also chairman of Tokyo Electric Power Co., said in his speech at a luncheon given in Gorbachev's honor that the conclusion of the treaty would help establish a firm foundation for the expansion of bilateral economic relations.

The luncheon meeting was attended by the heads of seven major Japanese economic organizations as well as by the heads of about 550 leading Japanese companies from a wide spectrum of industrial sectors.

In his speech, Hiraiwa also said political and economic stability and a smoother flow of information are vital if Japanese companies are to feel secure in investing more actively in the Soviet Union.

In order to aid Soviet efforts to boost the international competitiveness of its industries and the country's attempts to transform itself into a market economy, the Japanese business community intends to continue exploring the possibility of joint ventures and the promotion of intellectual and technological cooperation, he said.

The Keidanren head pledged to make efforts to enhance Japanese corporate participation in Soviet development programs, such as those for developing natural resources in Siberia and the Soviet Far East.

Gorbachev Encourages Investment

OW1704130491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1243 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev urged Japanese business leaders Wednesday to invest more actively in proposed joint projects in the Soviet Union, and called for the establishment of a Japan-Soviet Development Bank to promote economic cooperation.

Speaking at a luncheon with the heads of seven major business organizations and top executives from some 550 leading companies, Gorbachev said economic relations are the basis for all aspects of the ties between the two nations.

Stressing the need for cooperation by Japan, he cited development of marine resources in the North Pacific and fishery cooperation, development of natural gas and oil in Siberia, exports of enriched uranium to Japan, the establishment of a development bank for promoting regional development joint ventures, and the joint launching of a commercial satellite.

Gorbachev, who had been due to speak for 18 minutes but continued for nearly an hour, also said politics should not dictate business matters—an apparent reference to the stance adopted by Japanese business circles that any dramatic improvement in bilateral economic ties can only come after a territorial dispute is resolved.

The dispute concerns four islands off Hokkaido seized by the Soviets at the end of World War II.

The Soviet leader also stressed that the problem of payment of arrears for Japanese exports will be solved in the long run.

He said Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, in their meeting on Tuesday, promised to consider the proposed projects on an item-by-item basis.

Asked by the businessmen about economic obstacles such as the ownership of resources and the international convertibility of the Soviet currency, the ruble, Gorbachev said he understands the significance of these questions.

The problem of ownership will be settled through a new pact between the federal government and the nation's constituent republics, he said, adding that he regards the issue of convertibility of the Soviet currency as a matter of urgency.

He said the problem of who owns resources—the central government or each republic—will be settled within a month, adding that the republics will be the main players in talks on projects with foreign partners.

Trade with Japan accounts for only 2.5 percent of the total Soviet trade, he said, calling for bilateral economic ties to be raised to a "new stage."

The Soviet leader's speech received a restrained response from the Japanese business leaders.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said the current system of central control of the Soviet economy will not crumble soon despite the efforts to bring about economic reforms.

He said he perceived Gorbachev's requests for cooperation in a variety of projects to be merely expressions of hopes for Japanese cooperation when the time comes.

Toshikuni Yahiro, president of the Japan Association for Trade With the Soviet Union and Socialist Countries of Europe, said Gorbachev just repeated the familiar stance of the Soviet Union that economic cooperation should come before settlement of political issues. Gorbachev did not touch on the territorial issue, Yahiro pointed out.

Businessmen 'Ambivalent' on Ties

OW1604135691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1326 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—While strongly welcoming the visit by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to Japan, the country's business leaders harbor ambivalent feelings over the future of bilateral economic ties.

Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, sees Gorbachev's visit as an "epoch-making event in the history of both countries."

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), puts it more tentatively, but nonetheless positively: "We hope that his visit will help open a new page in the history of our bilateral ties."

Despite their apparent enthusiasm for the Gorbachev visit to Japan, however, business officials remain cool over prospects for bilateral business relations, which have languished due to the pending territorial issue over four Soviet-held islands east of Hokkaido, northern Japan.

As Eiji Suzuki, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), put it, "Japan-Soviet relations should progress step by step. While it is not appropriate for Japan to do nothing until the northern territories are returned, we are also against hasty economic aid."

Keidanren chief Hiraiwa concurred. "It is not easy for the Japanese private sector to agressively enter the Soviet market" as long as the territorial dispute remains unresolved, he said.

When all is said and done, however, they are hopeful that Gorbachev's visit will one way or another pave the way for improved economic ties between Tokyo and Moscow.

"We eagerly hope that the two governments will sign a peace treaty to facilitate bilateral economic cooperation," said Hiraiwa.

At a luncheon meeting with the Soviet president on Wednesday, business leaders will appeal for stepped-up efforts on the Soviet side to accerelate the sluggish business ties.

They will warn that the stagnated economic reform, the confused relations between the federal government and the republics, the burgeoning payment arrears for Japanese imports, and other complex political and economic problems reduce the attraction of the Soviet market for Japanese businessmen.

But the business leaders are expected to promise to extend intellectual and technological assistance to the country to lubricate the Soviet Union's stalled transformation into a market- oriented economy.

The meeting, sponsored by Japan's seven major business organizations, including Keidanren, Nikkeiren, and the Japan Foreign Trade Council, will be attended by 550 corporate executives.

Kaifu, Gorbachev Dine at Official Residence

OW1704140991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1340 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Wednesday both said that a substantial improvement in Japan-Soviet ties will benefit not only the two nations but also the whole world.

Kaifu, who held a dinner Wednesday evening for Gorbachev and his wife Raisa at his official residence, said that the course of relations between Japan and the Soviet Union has been a thorny path with much pain for both countries.

The two countries are facing a decisive turning point and "we would like to achieve a decisive leap forward in our bilateral relationship," Kaifu said.

"A radical improvement in the Japan-Soviet relationship is not a matter of bilateral concern, but something which all our neighbors in the Asia-Pacific region and the whole world have been expecting," he said.

Kaifu also hailed Gorbachev's perestroyka reforms, saying the recognition of the importance of universal values was the most significant change brought by perestroyka.

Citing a phrase in "Doctor Zhivago" written by Russian poet Boris Pasternak—"a presage of freedom was in the air throughout the post-war years," the prime minister said Pasternak had forecast that [as received] the spirit of freedom now back in the Soviet Union.

In the following speech, Gorbachev stressed the need for establishing personal relationships among leaders, and said Kaifu is his "intimate partner" with whom the president can hold "candid and frank talks" without knotty diplomatic issues.

Noting that the tendency toward integration and mutual dependence is spreading across the world, Gorbachev said, "I feel real satisfaction that Moscow and Tokyo are now trying to improve bilateral relations."

The president also said his country is ready to hold constructive talks with Japan over extensive issues in the Asia-Pacific region, and emphasized that Asia-Pacific nations should join in the process of establishing a new world order.

Sakhalin Governor Leaves Tokyo for Home

OW1704060691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0549 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Soviet Sakhalin's Gov. Valentin P. Fedorov, a member of President Mikhail Gorbachev's delegation, left Japan on Wednesday by plane for home.

Fedorov earlier expressed dissatisfaction that he could not join the first summit session Tuesday between Gorbachev and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu as an official delegate in charge of the territorial issue between Japan and the Soviet Union, Japanese sources said.

Concerning the four disputed islands off Hokkaido, Fedorov reportedly said a declaration by the Congress of Deputies of the Russian Federation last year requires a referendum to change the country's borders, and it was inconceivable that Russians would agree to give up the territories.

Other Issues

MITI Minister 'Cautious' on USSR Trade

OW1704135791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1302 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Eiichi Nakao gave a cautious response to the Soviet Union's sounding out Japan for financial assistance to pay off the 500 million dollar arrears for Japanese exports, government officials said.

Nakao told Konstantin Katushev, minister of foreign economic affairs, that the government's financial aid will be considered in light of the domestic social situation in the Soviet Union, international conditions over the issue, and the overall state of Japan-Soviet relations, said Tadakatsu Sano, director of the Europe- Africa-Middle East Division of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

Katushev asked Nakao about the possibility of such economic support, pointing out there have been a number of cases in which other countries provided such aid to help the Soviet Union to clear overdue payments, Sano said.

In the meeting, the two ministers agreed to have closer exchange of information about Soviet petrochemical plants, he said.

Katushev, pointing out that 12 of the 33 petrochemical plants in the Soviet Union are located in the far eastern part of the country, called for Japan's cooperation to help modernize the facilities.

Nakao said any rapid advance in bilateral projects will come only after the Soviet Union solves the many economic maladies that hamper Japanese investments.

They include the instability of the ruble, the recovery of productivity in key industries, payments of arrears, and clarification of ownership concerning resources, Sano said.

Katushev invited Nakao to visit Moscow as early as possible and Nakao agreed, according to Sano.

Soviet Fair Generates $13.5 Million in Business

OW1604144491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1126 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Niigata, April 16 KYODO—A Soviet business fair held in this port city on the Japan Sea closed Tuesday after generating an estimated 13.5 million dollars worth of bilateral business, organizers said.

The six-day exhibition, sponsored by Dalintorg, the Soviet Far East Trade Corporation, was participated in by governments in the Soviet Far East and Siberia.

Organizers said the fair attracted about 150 Japanese companies and 66,500 visitors from around the country, exceeding the 60,000 sponsors had hoped for.

Kemerovo F.D. Zhitniko, vice president of the Nakhodka-based Dalintorg, said the fair provided Soviet businessmen with a rare opportunity to learn about the Japanese market.

Of the 13.5 million dollars in transactions, Dalintorg has received 7 million dollars worth of export contracts, with other Soviet state companies fetching 4.5 million dollars in business.

The Soviet side also agreed to import 2 million dollars worth of Japanese goods.

Although Soviet entrepeneurs had hoped to spark interest in finished products, most of the purchases were for raw materials such as coal and wood, industry sources said.

Zhitniko admitted that Soviet-made ceramics and other products failed to satisfy Japanese buyers, who are conscious of quality and prices.

Another 55 deals generated by the fair are still being negotiated, said Keiji Sekita, an official of the Japan-U.S.S.R. Trade Association.

Decision on Minesweeper Dispatch 'Likely' in May

OW1704095791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0501 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—The Japanese Government is likely to decide on the dispatch of Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) minesweepers to the Persian Gulf in early May after Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's scheduled visit to Southeast Asian nations, government sources said Wednesday.

Kaifu will leave for a five-nation tour of Southeast Asia on April 27 and return to Tokyo on May 6 at the end of Japan's "Golden Week" holiday period.

The sources added, however, that the timing of the government's decision will depend on what moves the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the No. 2 opposition Komeito may make over the controversial issue.

The government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) hope to maintain cooperative relations with Komeito which holds the swing vote in the opposition-dominated House of Councillors, the sources said.

Failure to obtain opposition support would also jeopardize a tentative agreement between the LDP, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) to draw up a bill outlining the basis for Japan's participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations, they said.

Observers said Kaifu will seek support for the dispatch of Japanese minesweepers from the leaders of Southeast Asian nations—Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Singapore, and Philippines—when he makes visits to these member nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Makoto Sakuma, MSDF chief of staff, disclosed Tuesday that the Defense Agency has asked him to prepare an outline of the logistical requirements for the dispatch of minesweepers to the Persian Gulf.

The government sources said the Japanese Government is determined to make the MSDF ready to deal with any contingency, based on the advice of Director General of the Defense Agency Yukihiko Ikeda.

Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) are drawing up plans to send four minesweepers to the Gulf, accompanied by a support ship and supply ship. The ships' combined crews would total 500, Defense Agency sources said.

The government attempted to pass a bill last fall enabling the SDF to serve in a noncombat role in conflicts conducted in accordance with U.N. resolutions.

However, the bill was dropped following opposition protests that such a move would run counter to the Constitution, which bans Japan from using force as a means of resolving disputes.

Statement Criticizes 'Protectionist' EC Trade

OW1704054891 Tokyo KYODO in English 2338 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Geneva, April 16 KYODO—The Japanese Government, in a statement issued Tuesday on a report by the Council of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) regarding trade policies of the European Communities (EC), expressed strong regrets over what it called protectionist EC trade practices.

The statement said that the EC is manipulating its antidumping procedures and rules regarding countries of origin and that member nations are applying discriminatory quotas on imports from Japan.

The statement said the EC quotas on Japanese imports are in violation of the GATT rules and urged that the import restrictions be scrapped by the end of 1992.

Regarding agricultural trade, the report urged an end to EC export subsidies through the Uruguay Round multilateral trade talks, and reform of the EC's common agricultural policies.

Government Considers Raising ODA Interest Rates

OW1704102091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0637 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—The government is considering raising interest rates on Official Development Assistance [ODA] in a move to narrow a deficit caused by rising fund-raising costs, informed sources reported Wednesday.

The Foreign Ministry, however, is opposed to the proposed hike, claiming it runs counter to the government's goal of improving the quality of aid to developing nations, the sources said.

The Finance Ministry favors the rate increase, fearing the deficit will increase pressure on fiscal policy, they said.

The sources said fund-raising costs rose to more than 7 percent in the latter half of 1990 from the 6 percent level earlier in the year. The rate had hovered around 5 percent from 1987 to 1989.

But interest rates on yen loans to developing nations were held at the higher end of the 2 percent level from 1987 to 1990.

The sources said the government is expected to make a final decision on the matter by the end of April.

Finance Minister Comments on Return From EBRD

OW1604144691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1137 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said on returning from London Tuesday he has no intention of changing Japan's present macroeconomic policy aimed at curbing inflationary pressure and stabilizing prices.

Hashimoto thus denied reports from London that Japan has changed its monetary stance that places emphasis on sustaining domestic economic growth.

Hashimoto attended an inaugural session of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] in London Monday.

The bank, established with contributions from 42 countries and agencies, is the first international institution designed to help rebuild the crippled economies of seven East European countries.

Hashimoto told reporters he does not think the Japanese domestic economy has reached a turning point after sustained growth over the last 50 months.

He said stabilizing volatile land prices is an urgent task facing the government and that easing the present tight credit policy would be inappropriate.

Central Bank Governor Remarks on Monetary Policy

OW1704101691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0640 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno indicated Wednesday the central bank is maintaining its tight monetary policy since there is no prospect of a sharp downturn in the economy.

Mieno, speaking at an annual meeting of the Trust Companies Association of Japan, said, "There have been several economic indexes recently signaling a 'mild slowdown' in the economy. But that is only natural and even desirable in consideration of the past tight monetary policy."

The current economic situation is remaining at its peak and the central bank is gauging the effects of the past five key rate hikes on the economy, Mieno said. The official discount rate stands at 6 percent per annum.

Mieno added there is a tight supply-demand situation in both manufactured goods and labor. "Domestic prices are basically stable at present but such a tight supply situation requires the central bank to pay close attention to price moves," Mieno said.

Masami Kogayu, vice finance minister, said during an address that the current price levels need "vary careful" attention.

Kogayu said the overall national economy is maintaining its "autonomous expansion" but in order to sustain the domestic demand-led economic growth without inflation, the Finance Ministry will carry out "adequate and flexible" monetary policies.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations, also attended in the 16th meeting of the Trust Companies Association of Japan and called for monetary policy to set an emphasis on correction of the so-called bubble economy boosted by speculative investment and on land price controls.

As for financial business sectors, Mieno and Kogayu referred to excessive investment in land and real estate by financial firms last year and called for sound management with a sincere attitude toward the public responsibility of businesses.

Hiroshi Hayashi, president of the Trust Companies' Association, said on behalf of the organization that the principle of their business members is contributing to society. Sincere commitment to the ongoing reform of financial systems, in view of the globalization of businesses, is another pillar, he said.

Hayashi, also president of Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Corp., stressed that the Trust Bank Association hopes that the financial reform will be accomplished fairly.

Ongoing financial reform plans pushed by the Finance Ministry include one plan aimed at lowering legal barriers between commercial banks, trust banks, insurers, and securities firms.

Hayashi said such plans should assure fair competition in order to maintain sound management at trust banks.

Further on Remarks

OW1704110291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0945 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—In yet another dismissal of increasing hopes for an early cut in interest rates, Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday the central bank will stick to its tight monetary course.

Speaking at a regular press conference, the central bank chief acknowledged that the Japanese economy is "in a modest downturn phase" but quickly ruled out the possibility of a "sharp turn," or an excessive slowdown.

"The economy, despite a moderate slowdown, remains at fairly high levels," as shown by robust industrial production and the acute labor shortage, he said.

In addition, prices still need vigilance, since rising costs from the tight labor and product markets are exerting increasing pressure on them, Mieno said, referring to the 0.1 percent month-on-month rise in wholesale prices in March.

Taking into account these factors, "the BOJ will continue its present monetary policy of monitoring the effect of past credit tightening," he said.

He also gave assurances that the central bank is confident the current lofty interest rates will not choke the economy, as feared in some quarters of business and government.

The remarks reinforced those Mieno made earlier in the day at an annual meeting of Japanese trust bankers, where he said a mild downturn in the economy is "natural and even desirable in consideration of the past tight money policy."

Describing the present foreign exchange rate, Mieno said the market is "directionless and unstable," adding the BOJ will keep a close eye on future movements.

The dollar, which had been a market pacer in the postwar euphoria over the U.S. economy, has been suffering heavy selling pressure in recent sessions, stemming from renewed anticipation of lower U.S. interest rates.

Mieno, responding to a question about U.S. economic health, also said the recent economic indicators failed to underscore the expectations of a quick recovery of the U.S. economy, which prevailed after the Persian Gulf war.

One of these indicators, the U.S. employment rate, jumped from 6.5 in February to 6.8 in March, the highest in over four years.

Corporate Employees Win 5.58% Spring Wage Hike

OW1604122591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1144 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 (KYODO)—Employees of major corporations earned wage increases averaging 5.58 percent or 14,591 yen a month in this spring labor-management negotiations, down [word indistinct] percentage points from last year, the Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren) reported Tuesday.

The federation said its interim report was based on a survey of 327 major enterprises in 24 industries, of which 263 firms responded.

The survey showed that workers in commercial and distribution sectors earned the highest wage raise among all industries, gaining a 6.49 percent hike, against the lowest of 3.78 percent for commercial television stations.

The lower pay increase was attributable to uncertainties over the future of the domestic economy.

* CEO Discusses Sharp's Corporate Strategy

91GE0207A Duesseldorf HANDELSBLATT in German 25 Mar 91 p 17

[Article by Andreas Gandow on conversation with Haruo Tsuji, president of Sharp Corp.; Tokyo, 23 March 1991: "Corporate Strategy for the 1990's"].

[Text] The Sharp Corporation of Osaka, which is among the leaders of the Japanese producers of consumer electronics, communications, and information processing technology, as well as electronic components, wants to continue to expand its production, sales, and R&D activities in Europe. In a conversation with HANDELSBLATT, the President of the firm, Haruo Tsuji, explains that the completion of the European internal market is arousing latent demands, and is doing a great deal to invigorate the market: "In this way, Europe will gain markedly in terms of total international business."

For the upcoming 1991-92 fiscal year, Mr. Tsuji expects, in spite of the general macroeconomic conditions currently prevailing—a downturn in Japan, at least a temporary recession in the United States—further improvements in sales and earnings as a result of the introduction of new, technologically-advanced products. In fiscal year 1990-91 (31 March), sales were increased by eight percent to 1,140 billion Japanese yen (or a generous 13 billion German marks [DM]). Official earnings improved beyond expectations (profit prior to operating expenses and taxes) were up by 81 billion yen (up 12 percent, or just under DM1 billion).

On this point, Mr. Tsuji said: "The semiconductors and display technology, as well as the telecommunications and information processing technology are the technological key areas of the 1990's. We are involved in R&D activities in all these areas, but we are concentrating our efforts particularly upon the area of liquid crystal display (LCD) technology, which is of central importance for the further development of the firm."

Mr. Tsuji puts the total R&D expenditures of the Sharp Corporation for the coming fiscal year at DM1.2 billion in round figures (up 11 percent over the previous year, or approximately 8.5 percent of the budgeted sales). In fiscal year 1992-93, a level of 10 percent of the sales is to be reached. A similar amount is now being expended within the context of a projected three-year investment program (1990 to 1992), solely to expand the production capacity for liquid crystal displays.

LCD production is slated for the West Coast of the United States in the coming year, in order to permit an even closer degree of cooperation between the customers located there (PC producers, mechanical engineering, the auto and aircraft industries). Another project for the expansion of its production capacity will involve the opening of Sharp's production plant for large (over 10-inch) liquid crystal displays for the projection of television pictures next to the Tenri plant near Kyoto in Central Japan in August 1993 (investment volume: circa DM500 million marks).

Large-Scale Involvement for LCD Screens

According to its own figures, the Sharp Corporation holds a market share of circa 35 percent of the liquid crystal display market (Japanese producers in toto in excess of 90 percent), and, in the case of TFT [thin film transistor] color LCD's (the high definition thin film transistor active matrix method) to be used in television sets and office technology, its share is even as high as circa 70 percent.

Mr. Tsuji stresses that a strong technological position, particularly in this area, is significant, because the further development of this technology could lead to completely new products and markets in the case of consumer goods and facilities for office automation. According to Japanese estimates, the LCD market will have increased from 110 billion yen (in 1988) to circa 200 billion yen last year to an estimated 340 billion yen (or approximately DM4 billion) in the current year. By the mid-1990s, the market will grow to approximately 1,000 billion yen, and to 2,000 billion by the end of this decade.

Four Plants in Europe

In addition, the concern has at its disposal, a dominant market position, particularly in electronic word processors and video games to be used in conjunction with the Mask-ROM [read only memory] memory chips, which are in the offing. Thus, Sharp, as the initial producer, was the first to introduce the 16 megabit Mask-ROM chip to the market. It is estimated that in the years to come there will be a pronounced increase in the demand for these specialized chips.

The international plant network at present includes 31 plants in 23 countries. Of the 67,000 who work for the concern, 36,000 work outside of Japan. In Europe, Sharp has a total of four production sites at its disposal (in Great Britain, France, and Spain), in which television sets, video recorders, microwave ovens, electronic typewriters, copiers, and fax machines are produced. Independent product development goes on at these sites as well (in Spain, for example, in the area of digital television technology).

After the "Creative Center Europe" was set up in Hamburg in 1987 as a market research and development center for the European market, R&D activities in Europe were further expanded in 1990 by the establishment of "Sharp Laboratories of Europe, Ltd.," of Oxford. Using a team, initially made up of 30 workers which will, in future, be expanded to 100, basic and applied research in optical electronics and information processing technology will be undertaken. Television technology (HDTV [high definition television]) and mobile communications technology will be among the areas stressed. Close contact to European research facilities will be an intended goal.

Managing all the production and sales activities in Europe, as well as the development of corporate planning will be in the hands of the German subsidiary Sharp Electronics (Europe) GmbH in Hamburg. At the present time, the firm has only succeeded in selling no more than circa 25 percent of its exports (not quite 50 percent of its sales) in Europe.

which corresponds, in approximate terms, to annual sales of approximately DM1.5 billion at the current rate of exchange.

Mr. Tsuji claimed that at the present time no additional production facilities were on the drawing boards in Europe, but that the assortment of goods and the production capacities at the existing plants would be increased. Thus, for example, at the present time, in Spain, a plant for the production of one million television sets per annum was being built up. Production should start in January 1992. Mr. Tsuji stressed that priority was being given to the expansion of a broad-spectrum, hard-hitting sales and service organization in the European countries. Thus, he said, a sales company had been established in Italy, and branches had been founded in Berlin and Leipzig.

When asked about the firm's plans and activities in Central and Eastern Europe, Mr. Tsuji explained that studies conducted thus far had led to the conclusion that, for the present at least, building a plant in this region made little sense from a managerial standpoint, due to the inadequate infrastructure (deliveries of component parts). The products would not be competitive, and thus they could not be sold, either in the country of origin, or in the export trade.

Mr. Tsuji did say, however, that business was developing particularly well in the countries of central and eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union. Thus, it was possible to increase total turnover from 7.5 billion yen (in 1989) to 17 billion yen (approximately DM200 million) by last year. He said that the requisite purchasing power was evidently available. The items that were selling particularly well were television and video recorders, radios and cassette recorders, and microwave ovens. In sales in that region, Sharp works in close cooperation with various Japanese universal trading houses. A short-term project, however, is the establishment of its own representative offices in Moscow.

The completion of a global communications system in the coming fiscal year is characterized by Mr. Tsuji as an important project within the context of the firm's worldwide involvement. In addition to telephone and fax connections, it should make the transmission of data and construction plans possible, and connect the total of 50 sales, customer service, production, and R&D locations with each other.

Concentration on Large-Scale R&D Projects

Mr. Tsuji said the central goal of the firm's long-term strategy for the 1990s ("Star 21") was to begin new projects in new fields of endeavor by revising the organizational structure, modifying personnel management, and by concentrating corporate resources in five major projects. Mr. Tsuji did not wish to confirm press reports, according to which by the year 2000 consolidated sales of 5,000 billion yen were projected. He does mention high-priority goals in achieving international leadership in the area of optical electronics, and achieving half of the company's sales in the areas of information technology and electronic components as quickly as possible (as of September 1990: 46%). Sharp's corporate strategy includes the concentration of corporate resources in the conclusion of five major projects in R&D: opto-magnetic storage systems, information transmission (with and without a wire), "intelligent" systems for office automation, systems for the electronic control of processes in the home ("home automation"), as well as high definition television (HDTV). Sharp is working with 16 other Japanese firms within a research consortium (Giant Electronics Technology Corp.) that was initiated by the Japanese Ministry of the Economy (Miti) and is working on the development of basic technologies for large HDTV color LCD's.

Nippon Steel To Sell Computers in UK

OW1704103391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0646 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Nippon Steel Corp. said Wednesday it will begin selling its Librex notebook-sized personal computers in Britain later this month.

Nippon Steel will market 16-bit and 32-bit versions of the computers.

By marketing the models in Britain, Nippon Steel hopes to secure a foothold in the European market.

The move was prompted in part by strong sales of the Librex model in the United States. It began selling them in the United States late last year.

Sales will be conducted through its British subsidiary established last March.

Nippon Steel hopes annual sales will reach 50,000-60,000 within a few years.

Nippon Steel plans to eventually market the models in France and Germany.

Foreign Orders for Ships Drop 12.2%

OW1604184691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0932 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Ships ordered from Japan by foreign countries in fiscal 1990 totaled 7.14 million gross tons, down 12.2 percent from the previous fiscal year, undermined by the Persian Gulf war, an industry association said Tuesday.

The Japan Ship Exporters' Association attributed the decline to the uncertain global oil supply situation stemming from the Gulf crisis after August last year. Shipowners around the world refrained from active order placing, while shipbuilders also refrained from taking orders in such situation, it said.

The fiscal 1990 level, however, is still high, compared with the generally depressed level in the past decade, surpassed only by fiscal 1983 and 1989, the association said.

According to the association, the number of ships ordered by foreign countries in the fiscal year came to 148, including 36 freighters, and 84 tankers with tonnages of more than 200,000 deadweight tons.

Of the total orders, 34 percent came from American and European shipping companies.

As of the end of fiscal 1990 on March 31, Japanese shipbuilders had a backlog of orders from 260 ships totaling 12.57 million gross tons, the association also said.

Crude Steel Output Increases in FY 1990

OW1504144091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0651 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Japan's crude steel output in fiscal 1990, ended March 31, exceeded 110 million tons for the first time in 11 years to reach the fourth-highest level in history, the Japan Iron and Steel Federation said Monday.

Crude steel production in March rose 8.7 percent from February to 9.61 million tons, bringing the total for fiscal 1990 to 111.70 million tons, up 3.3 percent from the previous fiscal year, the federation said.

The total volume for fiscal 1990 topped the 100 million ton level for the fourth straight year, following 108.13 million tons produced in fiscal 1989.

The March crude steel production volume was up 4.8 percent from the same month of the previous year, scoring the eighth straight year-on-year rise, federation officials said.

March production of ordinary steel rose 8.6 percent from February to 7.81 million tons, while output of specialty steel increased 9.1 percent to 1.80 million tons.

Ordinary steel production in fiscal 1990 rose 3.0 percent from the previous year to 91.47 million tons, exceeding the 90 million ton level for the first time in 10 years. Specialty steel output went up 4.8 percent to an all-time record of 20.23 million tons.

Foreign Builders Invited To Bid for 23 Contracts

OW1504134391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0909 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Japan will invite foreigners to place bids for 23 contracts involving four public works projects in fiscal 1991, which began in April, the Construction Ministry said Monday.

The invitation was made in line with a 1988 Japan-U.S. agreement which committed Japan to opening 17 major public works projects worth over 700 million yen each to foreign competitors.

Following are the four planned public works for fiscal 1991.

—road along Ise Bay, central Japan. Estimated cost: 10.9 billion yen.

—the 12th metropolitan expressway. Estimated cost: 37.8 billion yen.

—a 64 billion yen bridge over the Akashi Strait, western Japan.

—bridge across the Tokyo Bay. Estimated cost: 87.2 billion yen.

Automakers Reject Steel Price Hike

OW1604135191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1324 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Automakers rejected price hikes for sheet steel proposed by Nippon Steel Corp. At the beginning of their negotiations Tuesday, industry sources reported.

The sources said Nippon Steel explained to automobile manufacturers that price hikes are inevitable due to rising production and distribution costs.

The automakers countered that they are plagued by the same adverse factors in addition to sluggish sales of vehicles on the domestic and U.S. markets, the sources said.

The price markups will be the first in nine years.

The sources said other steel suppliers are expected to join Nippon Steel in seeking price markups later this week or early next week.

They said steel manufacturers are seeking an average 5.0 percent increase in prices for sheet steel supplied to automobile manufacturers, starting with shipments in July.

Automobile manufacturers predicted that negotiations would be drawn out in view of the tough stands taken by both sides.

Toyota, Nissan Output Falls for 2d Straight Month

OW1704122091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0840 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Toyota Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co. reported Wednesday that their automobile output fell from a year earlier for the second straight month in March, dampened by slumping domestic sales.

Overall automobile exports by Nissan, the nation's No. 2 automaker, declined for the first time in half a year as exports to the United States underwent an adjustment.

Shipments to the U.S. by Toyota, Japan's top carmaker, surged, thus helping to raise the company's overall exports for the sixth consecutive month.

Sagging sales in the U.S. as a result of the Persian Gulf war prompted Toyota to cut its total output by 10,000 units in the months of February and March.

A Toyota spokesman said the effect of the drop in output will show up in export figures after April. Shipments to the U.S. should decline sharply during the month, he said.

Output by Toyota decreased 6.6 percent from a year earlier to 361,829 vehicles, while Nissan's dropped 13.7 percent to 204,436.

Toyota's exports edged up 2.1 percent to 149,154, with those destined for the U.S. rising 15.5 percent to 67,058.

Nissan's overall exports declined 11.0 percent to 78,012, with those to the U.S. soaring 36.5 percent to 24,316.

The two automakers also announced their results for fiscal year 1990 ended last March.

Toyota's total output for fiscal 1990 eclipsed its previous record for the fourth straight year and reached the four million vehicle level for the first time ever.

Output by the firm rose 6.0 percent to 4,223,371 vehicles.

Nissan's output inched up 0.3 percent to 2,379,634.

Toyota's exports were up 2.2 percent to 1,705,658, while those by Nissan fell 2.9 percent to 959,120.

Fujitsu Develops Basic Digital Logic Circuit

OW1504141091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1117 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Fujitsu Ltd. said Monday it has successfully tested a basic arithmetic digital logic circuit that could enable 50 times the processing speed and half the power consumption of conventional semiconductor devices in computers.

Officials said the resonant-tunneling hot electron transistor (RHET) full adder is a basic logic circuit for digital RHET devices, which may become one of a new generation of microelectronic devices by the end of the century.

Fujitsu first fabricated the new functional transistors in 1985 and has been steadily trying to improve their efficiency the past six years, the officials said.

The full adder logic circuit works on the idea of quantum mechanics - a process where electrons tunnel through a wall of matter - rather than passing through an open gate in conventional electronic devices.

Hence, the number of transistors required as logic gates is reduced and the traveling space of electrons makes the logic circuit operate much faster.

Conventional semiconductors require a certain number of electrons to tell the logic gate to open or close.

Researchers at Fujitsu Laboratories built the microelectronic device using aluminum, gallium arsenide, and indium materials, the officials said.

The work was performed as part of the government's efforts to develop basic technologies for future industries under the management of the governmental new energy development organization, they said.

MITI Official Remarks on U.S. Chip Accord

OW1704123591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1032 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—A new Japan-U.S. agreement on semiconductor trade will specify 20 percent of the Japanese chip market as a goal for Japan's efforts to improve foreign access to the market, a Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) official said Wednesday.

The official, who declined to be identified, said, however, that it will not be an official guarantee of a 20 percent market share.

"That point also has to be made clear in the pact," the offical said.

The inclusion of the figure is conditionally tied to the United States lifting its remaining 165 million dollars worth of sanctions imposed on Japanese imports of personal computers and other electronics products, he said.

Tokyo will make the proposal to the U.S. during the fourth round of chip trade talks over a new pact to replace the current accord, which expires at the end of July. The forthcoming round is scheduled for next week in Tokyo.

In a side letter to the current pact, which was concluded in 1986, Japan recognized U.S. expectations of—but Tokyo says did not guarantee—an increase in [words indistinct] to 20 percent. The letter and its contents have been hotly disputed by the two countries.

In May 1987, then President Ronald Reagan slapped 100 percent tariffs on 300 million dollars worth of selected Japanese electronics, alleging Japan was not honoring the pact.

Reagan removed 135 million dollars worth in November 1987, saying Japan was no longer dumping microchips.

The 1986 accord committed Japan to stop predatory pricing in the U.S. market and improve foreign access to the Japanese market.

The remaining punitive tariffs are allegedly for the lack of progress in boosting the foreign-access part of the agreement.

But the foreign share of the Japanese semiconductor market has risen to 19 percent, according to MITI statistics. But it increased to only 13 percent from below 10 percent in 1986, according to statistics quoted by the United States.

The issue of whether the new pact, which is expected to cover the five years from August 1991, will include a mention of a 20 percent share for foreign suppliers in some form has been the largest point of contention in the bilateral talks.

The MITI official said the decision to accept the specification of the target is based on the judgement that prolonging the negotiations will not be in the best interest of Japanese industry.

MITI's move will likely pave the way for an early conclusion, possibly next week, to the bilateral talks, he said.

Company To Replace Parts in Nuclear Reactor

OW1504164891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1542 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Fukui, April 15 KYODO—The Kansai Electric Power Co. has confirmed nine antivibration bars were faultily installed in a steam generator of the No. 2 reactor at its Takahama plant in Fukui Prefecture, the prefectural government said Monday.

Fukui officials said the power company has decided to replace all of the 534 bars of the No. 2 reactor with improved ones.

The bars are designed to reduce vibrations in the tiny tubes attached to the steam generator of the 826,000-kilowatt boiling water-type reactor.

The power firm also decided to plug all of the 18 tubes adjacent to the nine bars so they cannot be used, the officials said.

But they indicated the company will not necessarily be allowed to resume operation of the reactor even after replacement of the bars with improved ones.

Depending on the results of checks on the No. 2 reactor of another Kansai Electric Power Co. facility, the Mihama nuclear power plant, also in Fukui Prefecture, further measures may be needed to ensure safe operation of the reactors at both plants, the officials.

On February 9 at the Mihama plant, a split formed in one of the tubes that should have been held in place by antivibration bars, allowing 55 tons of radioactive water to leak from the primary cooling system to the secondary system that powers the plant's turbine.

The leakage activated the reactor's emergency core cooling system to avert a possible meltdown.

The power company checked the other reactors of the same type, and found something unusual with the Takahama plant's No. 2 reactor.

On March 2l, the operation of the reactor was suspended, and the firm started detailed checks into the bars around 10 tubes in the steam generator.

Agency Plans New Nuclear Reactor Policy

OW1504132691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0832 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—The natural resources and energy agency on Monday said it plans to develop a new generation of light-water nuclear reactors that minimize safety-check burdens on reactor operators.

The first of the reactors is expected to be installed at the beginning of the 21st century.

Agency officials said the agency will ignore the goal of a "maximum capacity of 1.5 million to 1.8 million kilowatts" outlined in a 1986 government advisory panel report and instead aim for lower capacities.

But they said permission will be given for the installation of high-capacity reactors by power companies, on condition they are safe, reliable, and economical, and do not impose excessive safety- check burdens.

Present-day light-water reactors, which are the most common among nuclear reactors in Japan, have a capacity of 1.1 million kilowatts and the improved versions of such systems have a 1.3 million kilowatt output.

Higher-capacity reactors require more complex operations and thus impose heavier safety-check burdens on operators, the officials said. In addition, the reactors require more complicated periodic checkups making them prone to maintenance errors.

The officials said a new generation of reactors require design that makes it easier to avoid human errors, such as fail-safe systems and minimization of operator safety-checks, so as to prevent a reactor accident.

USSR Offers Nuclear Reprocessing

OW1504141691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1343 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Sendai, April 15 KYODO—A senior Soviet Government official on Monday indicated at an international meeting here that the Soviet Union is ready to reprocess spent nuclear fuel for foreign countries, organizers said.

B.V. Nikipelov, first vice minister of nuclear power, said, "We have reprocessing capacity well over the domestic demands." There is one such plant in the Soviet Union which can reprocess 400 tons of spent nuclear fuel a year, he said.

The Soviet Union suspended a plan to build a second plant following the world's most serious nuclear accident at Chernobyl in April 1986, he said.

However, Japanese nuclear experts said it is technically difficult for the Soviet reprocessing plant to treat Japanese spent fuel because of differences between nuclear reactor types in the two countries.

KANSAI SHIMBUN Ceases Publication

OW1604074891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0652 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Osaka, April 16 KYODO—A local newspaper controlled by a businessman who owes the debt-ridden Japanese trading company Itoman Corp. some 62.5 billion yen on Tuesday announced discontinuation of publication.

The evening newspaper KANSAI SHIMBUN, owned by Ho Yong-chung, made the announcement in its Wednesday edition printed Tuesday.

Itoman, originally a textile trading company, itself borrowed heavily from Sumitomo Bank to speculate in property investments while lending money to other companies.

The newspaper company had failed to honor 10 billion yen in promissory notes to make an initial payment on some 62.5 billion yen advanced to Ho by Itoman for speculative dealings in paintings.

The company was forced to discontinue publication because it had been unable to raise another 10 billion yen in promissory notes due on Saturday and now faces bankruptcy, informed sources said.

The newspaper, a member of the Japan Newspaper Editors and Publishers Association, has a circulation of 15,000 and features Japanese translations of articles from a South Korean newspapers.

Association officials said it is highly unusual for a member newspaper to discontinue publication after dishonoring a bill.

The promissory notes in question were issued on the basis of an agreement Ho signed with Itoman on April 1 on repaying the debts incurred in connection with art dealings.

Itoman officials, commenting on the newspaper's closure, said it has no effect on the Itoman's plans to claim Ho's property.

The Osaka District Court on Friday gave Itoman permission to seize property held by Ho and companies controlled by him.

North Korea

SPA Leader Views South 'Declaration of War'

SK1704101591 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0900 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Report on telephone message from Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly (SPA), to Pak Chun-kyu, speaker of the South Korean National Assembly, on 17 April]

[Text] As you are aware, the defense minister of your side made very alarming remarks some time ago that he will launch a surprise attack and destroy our atomic reactor facilities by mobilizing special forces.

At a time when the aspirations for reunification in the nineties have been enhanced higher than ever before in the North, the South, and abroad, and when single national sports teams were formed, and when the spirit for national reconciliation and unity has been heightened, the South Korean defense minister openly exposed the plan for an armed surprise attack on us. We must say that this is indeed grave.

Today, our people, compatriots at home and abroad, and all peaceloving people of the world cannot repress deep worries over the South Korean defense minister's remarks.

Under the situation in which one side of the dialogue is going to launch a surprise attack with armed force on its dialogue partner, mutual exchanges and dialogue cannot take place nor are they necessary. Even if dialogue is held, one could not discuss the issue of peace and reunification of the nation by opening one's heart.

Furthermore, in view of our nation's reality, it is as clear as fire that if your side launches a surprise attack with armed force on any facility on our side, this will lead to an all-out war which will drive the nation into an irrevocable catastrophe.

In short, we must say that the remarks of the high-ranking person among your military authorities are a declaration of the abandonment of North-South dialogue, a declaration of the denial of peaceful reunification, and a declaration of war against us.

We consider that the recent violent remarks of the South Korean defense minister are neither the expression of a certain individual's idea nor a slip of the tongue, but represent the will of the incumbent ruling group, which is dreaming of reunification through victory over communism. We also think that his remarks reflect the position of the United States, which militarily occupied South Korea.

After hearing the bellicose remarks by the high-ranking person of military authority in South Korea, we cannot but doubt the position of your side's parliament, which props up the authorities politically.

The opposition parties in South Korea condemn the remarks by the high-ranking person of military authority as an extremely dangerous outburst negating dialogue and reunification and aggravating the confrontation between the North and South. They are now calling for his immediate dismissal. However, your parliament has not made its position clear on that matter.

Your side's parliamentary delegation is scheduled to visit Pyongyang to attend a general conference of an international organization soon. If your side's parliament's position is to protect and prop up, politically, the persons in authority who threaten to make a surprise armed attack on us, it has no justification to visit Pyongyang or to sit face to face with us.

In view of this, we consider it necessary for your side's parliamentary delegation to make plain its position on the provocative outburst of your side's defense minister in a way convincing to all the fellow countrymen and our side before its visit to Pyongyang.

At the same time, we insist that the maneuvers of the United States and the South Korean authorities to trigger a new war be halted immediately for national peace and the peaceful reunification of the country. We insist that the bellicose elements who run counter to peace, dialogue, and reunification be removed without delay.

Ministry Spokesman Comments

SK1704112891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued the following statement today denouncing utterances of the South Korean "defence minister" threatening to "throw commando units and destroy atomic reactor facilities of the North":

The South Korean "defense minister" Yi Chong-ku reportedly told a meeting sponsored by the South Korean editors' council on April 12 that "if the North does not accept an international nuclear inspection, its nuclear facilities would be surprised," threatening to "throw commando units to destroy the atomic reactor facilities of the north."

We can never be indifferent to this statement of the South Korean military boss under the present conditions of our country where war poses a practical danger.

His outburst is a grave challenge to our sincere, painstaking efforts to ease the tensions and guarantee a durable peace on the Korean peninsula and achieve a peaceful reunification of the country.

At present, South Korean political party and public activists and people of all social standings are all expressing astonishment at this statement of the South Korean military boss, denouncing it as a foolish talk, an anti-reunification criminal act to throw a wet blanket over the efforts of the whole nation for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula and impose the tragedy of a fratricidal war on it.

As is known, the South Korean authorities, despite our warning and demand, staged "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers with the United States this year, too, bringing the hard-won inter-Korean high-level talks to a crisis and increasing the danger of war on the Korean peninsula.

The entire Korean people and the peaceloving people of the world sincerely hope that the tensions will be eased in Korea, the inter-Korean high-level talks be resumed as soon as possible and excellent achievements be made in the way of peace and reunification.

However, the United States and the South Korean authorities are aggravating the situation in Korea, ignoring the unanimous desire and expectation of the Korean people and the peaceloving people of the world.

In an annual report on the assessment of military potentials some time ago, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said that the Korean peninsula is a region fraught with the biggest danger of the outbreak of a local war after the Gulf and declared that in case a war breaks out in Korea, fierce battles of at least more than 120 days would be inevitable and the United States would hurl 200,000-strong reinforcements.

This shows that the United States regards the provocation of a new war in Korea as a fait accompli.

It is not accidental that, synchronizing with this, the "defence minister" of South Korea openly declared the intention to make an adventurous military attack against us under the pretext of nuclear inspection.

As to nuclear inspection, it is raised only after the nuclear nonproliferation treaty nations sign the nuclear safeguards accord.

We have not yet signed the nuclear safeguards accord just because the United States is threatening our sovereignty and security with nuclear weapons and has obstructed the signing of the accord together with the South Korean authorities.

Therefore, what remains to be done is to create actual environment and condition for the signing of the nuclear safeguards accord and this is a task to be carried out only between us and the United States.

From the stand for signing the nuclear safeguards accord, we proposed to the United States several times to consult the question of the guarantee of security for us and expressed the expectation that this question would be pushed ahead even under the grave situation in which the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises were being staged.

We still hope that a negotiation with the United States will be arranged for a fair solution to the nuclear safeguards accord problem.

This notwithstanding, the South Korean authorities brought forward the problem of an "international inspection of the North's nuclear facilities", not uttering a word about the U.S. nuclear weapons deployed densely in the whole area of South Korea. This cannot be construed otherwise than a deliberate act to invent a pretext of war against our Republic.

As already reported, at the 22nd "South Korea-U.S. annual security meeting" held in Washington in November last year, the two sides talked about our "nuclear facilities" and agreed to take "aerial countermeasures" against them, work out a plan to "get rid of them in the event of contingency and "include it in the operational exercise program".

The South Korean authorities are now trying to find an execuse for what the "defence minister"said, claiming that he made a slip of the tongue. However, this is nothing but the old game they have played to mislead public opinion at home and abroad. It clearly shows that they are, in actuality, getting nearer to the provocation of another war in Korea step by step, while carrying their plans already worked out into practice one by one.

The United States that has become all the more arrogant after the Gulf war is recklessly seeking to start another war in Korea by encouraging the South Korean authorities as it did in the 1950s.

If the South Korean authorities unleash a war with the backing of the United States, they will leave in the history of the nation a crime indelible down through generations, which will endanger even the existence of the nation.

Our people will turn out as one with concerted efforts of the whole nation to prevent the outbreak of another war in Korea and immeasurable disasters to the nation.

Paper Comments on Remarks

SK1704052891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT 17 Apr 91

["Very Ill-boding Bellicose Outburst"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON in a commentary on April 16 hits out at the South Korean puppet defence minister's blast threatening to surprise and destroy "atomic reactor facilities" of the North with "commando units."

Noting that the No Tae-u ruling group, vexed at rising tones of South Korean opposition parties and people of broad strata denouncing the "defence minister's" outburst, is setting afloat a rumour that it was "a slip of the tongue," the news analyst says:

This is a ruse to conceal its scheme for a surprise attack on the north.

The South Korean puppet defence minister's bellicose outburst was not "a slip of the tongue" or the intention of an individual or a mere military threat and blackmail.

It was a deliberate criminal act designed to push the situation to the extreme pitch of strain, bring dark clouds of war, frustrate dialogue and block the road of peaceful reunification in our country.

The South Korean authorities' scheme to provoke a war is based on the U.S. imperialists' plan of aggression and instructions.

The U.S. imperialists resort to undisguised military threats and blackmail against us, taking issue with non-existent "nuclear facilities," urged by their sinister plot to make the provocation of another war on the Korean peninsula a fait accompli and invade the north any moment.

If peace is to be guaranteed in Korea and preserved in Asia and the rest of the world, it is necessary to immediately thwart the criminal plot of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities to unleash a war, get the U.S. forces withdrawn from South Korea and promptly remove the No Tae-u ruling group and such trigger-happy elements as the puppet defence minister in South Korea.

South Dissidents on Defense Minister Dismissal

SK1704065991 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0448 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—Five organizations including the "Coalition for National Democratic Movement," the "National Council of Student Representatives" and the alliance of anti-nuke, peace movement, and the opposition popular party jointly called a press conference in Seoul on April 15 and issued a statement denouncing the criminal scheme of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges for aggression on the North, a radio report from Seoul said.

Branding the outburst of the "defence minister" threatening a surprise attack on the "atomic reactor facilities" of the North as foolish and anachronistic, the statement strongly urged the puppet authorities to dismiss him immediately.

Noting that the U.S. ruling quarters have recently drafted a "120-day war scenario" for aggression on the North and are urging the puppet authorities to sign the aggressive "wartime host nation support agreement," the statement said: Judging from these developments, the "defence minister's" outburst for aggression on the North can never be regarded as casual.

The statement continued:

The responsible circles of the United States and South Korea have recently let loose a string of words against the trend of the world toward peace and reunification, giving the people a chill.

These words imply that the tensions are growing and there remains the possibility of the outbreak of war on the Korean peninsula, causing serious apprehensions among the people who ardently desire peace.

The statement criticised the United States for opposing the withdrawal of the nuclear weapons and U.S. troops from South Korea, and announced: "We decided to launch a nationwide campaign to inform the people of the danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula."

The statement demanded that a nonaggression declaration be adopted between the North and the South and the Korean peninsula be turned into a nuclear-free zone in order to ease the tension and create an atmosphere of reunification on this peninsula.

It also demanded that the puppet authorities give up the "unilateral U.N. membership" scheme and refuse to sign the "wartime host nation support agreement" which provides for "unlimited rights of the U.S. troops" in South Korea and that the White House apologise to the Korean people for drafting the "120-day war scenario."

N-S Student Reunification Festival Supported

SK1304111191 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1027 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 13 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Korean Students Committee (KSC) in an statement today approved and supported the proposal of the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop) of South Korea to hold a North-South Reunification Festival of Students on August 14 and announced that two KSC delegates would be sent to Panmunjom at 14:00 April 16 to take over a letter of Chondaehyop.

He noted that the Chondaehyop's proposal is a righteous one reflecting the unshakable will of the South Korean students to achieve national reunification in the '90s at any cost and a just initiative which fully conforms to the desire and aspirations of the South Korean people of broad strata who call for nongovernmental dialogues and contacts. He said:

Considering the proposal of the South Korean students a patriotic initiative reflecting the unshakable faith of the students in the North and the South who are determined to be standard-bearers and vanguard fighters in the struggle to promote national reconciliation and unity and reunify the country, the Korean Students Committee warmly approves and supports it.

The road to meeting between students in the North and the South is a road of struggle that must be opened with the same intentions and by concerted efforts. We earnestly call upon the South Korean students to fight it out together with us to make the North-South Reunification Festival of students a success on all accounts.

Students Attempt To Deliver Letter to South

SK1604152091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1501 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 16 (KCNA)—A spokesman of the Korean Students Committee (KSC) today gave the following answers to the questions put by a KCNA reporter today in connection with the fact that the KSC sent two delegates to Panmunjom to take over the letter of the National Council of Student Representatives of South Korea (Chondaehyop) addressed to it, but it failed to take over the letter as scheduled owing to the obstructive moves of the South Korean authorities:

The "Chondaehyop" tried to send the letter to the KSC this time to inform the students in the northern half of the country of its stand toward the North-South Reunification Festival of Students which was decided at the fifth regular general meeting of deputies held on April 11 and 12. This is a patriotic deed which conforms with the desire of the fellow countrymen for national reconciliation and the reunification of the country.

It is only too natural that students, sensitive to the new, have contacts and hold reunification festivals today when politicians, sportsmen and artistes in the North and the South travel between Pyongyang and Seoul to have dialogue and reunification festivals and a unified team was formed in the sports field to participate in the international games.

Blocking the contact of students in the North and the South this time again, the South Korean authorities clearly showed that they are the heinous splittists who do not want the dialogue for reunification and the reunification of the country.

Our meeting has not yet been realised due to the obstructive moves of the splittists against the reunification of the country, but we are not disappointed.

The students in the North and the South who promised to take the lead on the road of reunification and patriotism for the country and the nation will fight it out to realise independent exchange and bring the August 14 North-South Reunification Festival of Students to a success.

We will go to Panmunjom again if South Korean sutdents demand.

11 Apr U.S. Aerial Military Exercise Reported

SK1304052991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 13 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Airforce Command on April 11 staged a joint aerial war exercise for a pre-emptive strike at main targets in the strategic in-depth areas of the northern half of Korea, according to military sources.

Mobilised in the war exercise in the sky above Oeyondo, Wonju, Kongju, Yoju and Chungju that day were Pacific-based F-16 fighter-bombers and fighter-bombers and assault planes of the U.S. Seventh Airforce and the puppet airforce, more than 200 in all.

On the same day, the U.S. Pacific Naval Command let formations of A-6 assault planes based in Iwakuni, Japan, fly in a surprise air strike exercise against targets in the inland areas of our side.

That day the U.S. imperialists brought a Guam-based KC-135 tanker plane to the sky above Kunsan to stage an exercise for mid-air refuelling of several formations of F-16s of the U.S. Airforce present in South Korea.

In separate action on the same day, the South Korean authorities staged ground attack exercises in Tongduchon and Uijongbu areas with the mobilisation of huge ground forces supported by scores of F-16s, F-4s, F-5s and A-37s.

At the same time, the U.S. imperialists let reconnaissance planes of various types fly above the area along the Military Demarcation Line for an aerial espionage on the depth and frontline areas of our side.

The warplanes mobilised in the aerial war exercises in the sky above South Korea on the 11th of April numbered more than 570.

U.S.' 'Military Power' Report Criticized

SK1404092491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0900 GMT 14 Apr 91

["Belligerent Utterances of Aggressor"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—The "Annual Report on Military Power" published by the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff on April 12 said that "It is the Korean peninsula that is fraught with the greatest danger of a local war following the Gulf war" and that if a war broke out in Korea, a "fierce battle of 120 days at least is inevitable" and the United States will send more than 200,000-strong "reinforcements" to the war.

This is a belligerent blast of the aggressor and an undisguised military threat and blackmail against the DPRK, a news analys of NODONG SINMUN today says, and continues:

The belligerent blast is pregnant with particular danger.

When the U.S. imperialists, falling into expansive delusion about their power, told that the Korean peninsula will be the theatre of the next war, they revealed a sinister intention to make the outbreak of another war in this region a fait accompli and start an invasion against us any moment.

What they persistently seek is to unleash a war of aggression with South Korea as their nuclear advance base and military bridgehead for executing their anti-socialist strategy and expand it to extensive areas so as to obtain world supremacy by strength.

It is not fortuitous that the number of the 200,000-strong "reinforcements" to be sent by the United States when a war broke out on the Korean peninsula is the same with the number of the troops mobilized in the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises every year.

We can say that the "Report" published by the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff is a plan of another Korean war worked out by the U.S. imperialists by giving concrete shape to war preparations they have systematically stepped up in South Korea and experiences of war they ignited in other countries and regions.

In the "Report" the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff talked about someone's "surprise attack" and "reinforcement of militry strength." It is nothing but a sophism intended to shift on to us the blame for the tense situation of the Korean peninsula and justify their war provocation moves.

It is only too ridiculous of the U.S. imperialists to believe that they can attain their aggressive design on Korea.

If the U.S. imperialists recklessly attack us, misjudging the strong will and readiness of our people who have equipped themselves with the chuche idea and achieved steel-like unity, our people will take a hundred-fold revenge on them.

Meetings Pledge Punishment in Event of War

SK1704052991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 17 Apr 91

["Stern Retaliation on Aggressors Pledged"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—Meetings denouncing the provocative "Team Spirit-91" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities have been held at the Kim Chaek iron and steel complex, the Hambuk shipbuilding complex, the Nampo glass association, the Taedoksan cooperative farm, Changpung county, Kaesong municipality, and in other places.

The participants in the meetings expressed their firm determination to decisively smash all the provocations of the enemy and defend our socialist homeland like an impregnable fortress.

Stating that no matter how desperately the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities may try to gratify their wild ambition for northward invasion, wielding nuclear weapons, they cannot break the invincible strength of our people singleheartedly rallied behind the party and the leader, the speakers warned them not to run amuck.

At a time when the nuclear war game is at its peak in the whole area of South Korea, the No Tae-u ruling group went round puppet army units to incite a war fever and started a mendicant diplomacy for South Korea's "unilateral U.N. membership", the speakers said, and added:

This clearly proves that they are traitors to the nation and separatists who are cleanly indifferent to reunification.

If the U.S. imperialists and their stooges dare start a war of aggression on the Korean peninsula, motivated by an anachronistic daydream, our people will mete out a severe punishment to the aggressors, they declared.

Chongnyon Traders Arrive From Japan 12 Apr

SK1304052191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0509 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 13 (KCNA)—An Sang-taek, president of the Tonghae Trading Company, Ltd. under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), and his companion and Kim In-kwon, president of the Pudong Trading Company under Chongnyon, and his companion arrived here Friday for a visit to the socialist homeland.

Joint Venture Exhibition Begins

SK1404100591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0834 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—A joint venture products exhibition of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) was held here on April 13.

On display at the exhibition were 2,140 exhibits of more than 220 kinds.

Present there were premier of the Administration Council Yon Hyong-muk, Vice-President Pak Song-chol, Vice-Premier Choe Yong-nim and other officials concerned and working people.

Chairman Han Tok-su and vice-chairmen Chon Yon-sik and Ho Chong-man of the Central Standing Committee of Chongryon and a congratulatory group, a group for expressing thanks and delegations, home-visiting groups and traders and industrialists of Chongnyon were also present.

Vice-Premier Kim Tal-hyon in his opening address stressed that the exhibition will be an important occasion in summing up economic joint venture and collaboration the Korean traders and industrialists of Chongnyon have conducted with the homeland in the past five years and upgrading this work to a higher stage.

Vice-Chairman Ho Chong-man in his speech said that products of different domains are now available in the homeland and foreign markets.

He said the Korean traders and industrialists in Japan will in the future, too, make efforts for the development and prosperity of the socialist homeland.

The participants saw round products of heavy and light industries, agriculture and fisheries, weak-current, service and other domains.

The Preparatory Committee of the Chongnyon joint venture products exhibition gave a reception in the evening.

Joint-Venture Companies Reported

SK1404095791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0816 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—Joint-venture companies went into operation in localities of Korea.

Chinhung joint-venture company which will produce embroidery goods and handicrafts started operation in Sariwon, North Hwanghae Province.

Branch factories of Manpung Joint-venture Co. which is run by Korea General Agricultural Produce Trading Co. and Asahi Industrial Co., Ltd. of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) were commissioned in Pyongwon County, South Pyongan Province, and in Sinchon County, South Hwanghae Province.

Earlier, Unchon straw processing factory jointly run by Sinjin Joint-Venture Co. of Korea and Asahi Industrial Co., Ltd. of Chongnyon started production.

The newly commissioned joint-venture companies will contribute to developing the nation's light industry and making the people's material and cultural life more affluent.

Koreans in Japan Denounce South's Authorities

SK1304050691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo April 11 (KNS-KCNA)—The Committee of Korean Students in Japan released a statement denouncing the No Tae-u authorities for demanding a ten-year prison term for Song Kap-sok, former chairman of the South Korean National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop).

The statement branded this outrage of the No Tae-u ruling group as an unpardonable criminal act to stifle the people's movement for independence, democracy and reunification.

The Committee of Korean Students in Japan demands that the No ruling group promptly stop the fascist suppression of the progressive organizations and patriotic students and immediately release the illegally arrested people, the statement said, and added:

We will support in every way the South Korean students in their valiant struggle for national reunification.

Joint PRC Computer Training Center Opens

SK1404100991 Pyongyang KC[illegible]n English 0834 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—The opening ceremony of a Korea-China friendship computer experts training centre took place at Kim Chaek University of Technology on April 13.

Present at the opening ceremony were Yi Cha-pang, chairman of the State Commission of Science and Technology, Yi Kwan-su, vice-chairman of the Education Commission, and other officials concerned and teachers and students of the university.

On hand were the members of the delegation of the State Science and Technology Commission of China headed by its Vice-Minister Hui Yongzheng and Chinese Ambassador to Korea Zheng Yi and his embassy officials and Chinese guests.

Speeches were made at the opening ceremony.

Article Commemorates Syrian Independence

SK1704113191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today dedicates a signed article to the 45th anniversary of the Syrian independence.

Noting that the independence of Syria has opened a road for her people to build an independent and sovereign, new country, the article goes on:

The forty-five years which the Syrian people have covered after the independence have been a course run through with a worthwhile struggle to defend the sovereignty of the country and build a new life.

They have waged an active struggle for defending the dignity and sovereignty of the country and the nation and developing the economy and culture, while courageously repulsing the incessant acts of aggression and intervention of the imperialists and Zionists.

Today the Syrian people are striving to firmly defend the country's independence, achieve the territorial integrity and build an independent and prosperous, new society under the guidance of the Arab Socialist Baath Party headed by President Hafiz al-Asad.

Syria is making efforts to restore the occupied Arab land, defend the dignity of the Arab nation and achieve a fair peace in the Middle East region.

Korea and Syria, both non-aligned countries, are striving for the cause of independence.

In this course, the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples have covered a course of development.

The invariable support of our people to the struggle of the Syrian people and the firm solidarity of the latter for our cause of national reunification have made a contribution to deepening the bonds of friendship between the two peoples and cementing the unity of the independent forces against imperialism.

We are convinced that the friendly land cooperative relations between the peoples of Korea and Syria will further develop and strengthen in the common interests and in conformity with the cause of peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

We sincerely wish the Syrian people a great advance in their efforts for territorial integrity and independent development.

Workers Party Publishes Book on Kim Il-song

SK0904103991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 9 (KCNA)—The Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Publishing House recently brought out

"Among the People" Vol. 47, a book on the wise leadership and noble communist virtues of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Carried in the book are "Leading a Technician to a Road of Worthy Life", "Centralised Transport System That Brought a Leap" and 17 other reminiscences.

The authors of the reminiscences deal with emotional stories that President Kim Il-song reared an old intellectual to be an official truly contributing to the building of a new country and that he made sure that a revolutionary upsurge was effected in railway transport and with his loving care to provide women with good working and living conditions and make the life of the people more affluent.

The book recounts stories that the great leader has wisely led the work to accomplish the historic cause of national reunification, that he built a centre of training native shipping cadres to meet the requirements of the developing reality and that he sent to the central zoo gift animals from heads of state of various countries and prominent figures and saw to it that they were tended with good care.

Kim Chong-il 1974 Ideological Work Praised

SK1404110591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0912 GMT 14 Apr 91

["Important Guideline in Establishment of Party's Monolithic Ideological System"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today dedicates a by-lined article to the 17th anniversary of the publication of the highly important work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il "Let's Thoroughly Establish the Monolithic Ideological System in the Whole Party and Whole Society" (April 14, 1974).

The work indicates an important guideline which enables all the party members and working people to arm themselves with the revolutionary idea of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, unite themselves as firm as rock behind the leader and successfully carry on the revolution and construction under his leadership, the article says, and continues:

The keypoint of the work is to thoroughly establish the monolithic ideological system as required by the modelling of the whole society on the chuche idea.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"We must continue efforts for establishing the party's monolithic ideological system through generations so as to bring the revolutionary cause started by the leader to completion."

Our party has consistently taken the establishment of the monolithic ideological system as the basic line of party building and has invigorated this undertaking along with the advance of the revolution and construction. The great theoretical and practical significance of the work finds expression in that it provided a basic guideline that makes it possible to activate efforts for the establishment of the monolithic ideological system as required by the developing reality.

The work, first of all, gives a profound exposition of the greatness of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the undying feats he has performed for the era and the revolution Comrade Kim Il-song led two revolutionary wars to victory, achieved national liberation and ushered in the new era of the national liberation revolution in colonies, the era of a new upswing in the anti-imperialist, anti-U.S. struggle. He also successfully carried out the social revolution of two stages and opened the way of building a man-centred, most superior socialist society.

He is the pattern of great revolutionaries and communists who has devoted his whole life to the sacred cause of the revolution and the people and a veteran leader who has made great contribution to the development of the world revolution and the international communist movement.

The work also gave a comprehensive exposition of the principled questions for establishing the party's monolithic ideological system to put this undertaking on a higher stage.

As the work clarifies, it is the main traits of the revolutionaries to hold the great leader in high esteem with loyalty, absolutize his prestige; regard his ideology as one's faith and unconditionally implement his teachings. The work clearly indicates the principled requirements and guides which the party members and the working people should take to display these traits.

Today in our country the entire people are firmly equipped with the revolutionary idea of the great leader, the chuche idea, and think and move as required by it and the socialist cause is dynamically advancing according to the leader's plan and intention.

Leaders Lay Wreaths at 'Martyrs' Cemeteries

SK1004151391 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0500 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Party and government cadres, workers, People's Army soldiers, and Children's Union members laid wreaths at the Mt. Taesong Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery and the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery this morning, Hansik Day [the 105th day after the winter solstice, when Korean people pay homage to their ancestors' tombs]. [passage omitted]

Present at the wreath-laying ceremony at the Mt. Taesong Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery were Comrades O Chin-u, Kye Ung-tae, Choe Kwang, Hyon Mu-kwang, Choe Yong-nim, Kim Chol-man, Kim Pok-sin, Hong Si-hak, Hwang Chang-yop, Kim Tal-hyon, and Chang Chol; responsible officials of party and government offices, administrative and economic offices, labor organizations, and central institutions; anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters; Korean People's Army generals; responsible officials of educational, cultural, and artistic, publication, and journalistic fields; workers in the city; People's Army soldiers; and Children's Union members. [passage omitted]

Present at the wreath-laying ceremony at the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery were Comrades Han Song-yong, Kang Hui-won, Cho Se-ung, and Yun Ki-pok; Yi Kye-paek, chairman of the Korean Social Democratic Party Central Committee; Chong Sin-hyok, chairman of the Chondoist Chongu Party Central Committee; responsible officials of party and government offices, administrative and economic offices, and public organizations; anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters; workers in the city; People's Army soldiers; and Children's Union members. [passage omitted]

Yi Chong-ok Attends Meeting To Award Degrees

SK1204091391 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0800 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Excerpts] On the morning of 7 April at the Great Hall of the People, a meeting to award academic degrees and professorships to academicians, associate academicians, professors, and doctors was held through the consideration of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, on the occasion of 15 April which is the greatest festive national holiday. [passage omitted]

Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, vice president, and chairman of the State Academic Degree and Professorship Awarding Committee, and other functionaries concerned, participated in the meeting with the recipients of the academic degree and professorship, and workers of the city.

The meeting started with singing the song of General Kim Il-song. After the decree of the State Academic Degree and Professorship Awarding Committee was read aloud, Comrade Yi Chong-ok awarded the title of academician and associate academician to the functionaries who greatly contributed to developing the nation's scientific, technological, and educational fields and in realizing the chucheization, modernization, and scientization of the people's economy.

Next, 22 people were awarded with the professorship; 31 people were awarded with a doctor's degree and a badge; 99 people were awarded with an associate professorship; and 273 people were awarded with an associate doctor's degree.

Comrade Yi Chong-ok made a speech at the meeting. [passage omitted]

Kim Yong-sun Meets With Austrian Politician

SK1304152791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 13 (KCNA)—Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Kim Yong-sun today met and had a friendly conversation with Franz Muhri, former chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Austria.

Kim Yong-nam Meets Outgoing Mongolian Envoy

SK1404092791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0808 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—Vice-premier and foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam Saturday met and had a conversation with Jambaldorjiin Bandra, Mongolian ambassador to Korea who paid a farewell call on him.

Information Committee Chairman Attends Seminar

SK1204035391 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The opening ceremony of the international training course for journalists was held yesterday at the International Movie House in Pyongyang.

A portrait of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was respectfully placed in front of the opening ceremony site.

Logo and banner—symbols of the training course—were also displayed there.

Publication and press functionaries and journalists from many countries, who have come to our country to attend the international training course for journalists, were present at the opening ceremony.

Kim Ki-yong, chairman of the Information Committee [Kongbo Wiwonhoe] of the DPRK, and other functionaries concerned were also present. [passage omitted]

Chon Mun-sop Speaks at Military Attache Banquet

SK1404095491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0824 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—The Ministry of People's Armed Forces gave a banquet Saturday evening for military attaches of foreign embassies here on the occasion of April 15.

Present at the banquet were General Chon Mun-sop, Admiral Kim Il-chol and other generals and officers of the Korean People's Army.

General Chon Mun-sop and Soviet Military Attache Pavel Doroshenko, doyen of the military attaches corps, made speeches at the banquet.

Saying that respected Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is the outstanding leader of the Korean party and state, the doyen of the military attaches corps referred to the feats he has performed in the socialist revolution and construction and in the endeavors for national reunification.

We support initiatives of the DPRK to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone and will stand on the side of the Korean people who are struggling to achieve the country's reunification peacefully and on a democratic basis, he said.

Pak Chon-on Attends Closing of Youth Festival

SK1404101091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0829 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—The 7th National Loyal Festival of Youth and Children that opened in February closed.

The festival, divided into political, economic, sports and art festivals, involved more than 6 million working youths, students and school children.

The Festival was a political function which summed up the successes and experiences gained in the work of the league of socialist working youth and in the activities of youth and children in the past and helped more successfully to prepare the rising generations as revolutionaries boundlessly faithful to the party and the leader.

The closing ceremony took place at the Kim Il-song Stadium on April 13.

Present there were Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-president, Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, and officials concerned.

At the closing ceremony the results of the Festival jury were made public and the Festival cup, medals, prize banners and letters of commendation were awarded.

Yon Hyong-muk Attends Foreign Artists Reception

SK1604060891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 16 (KCNA)—The Administration Council gave a reception Monday evening for the artistes of various countries and overseas Korean artistes who are participating in the Ninth April Spring Friendship Art Festival on the occasion of April 15.

Present at the reception were Yon Hyong-muk, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and premier of the Administration Council, Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK [Workers Party of Korea] Central Committee and vice-president, Kang Hui-won, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premier of the Administration Council, and other officials concerned.

Chang Chol, vice-premier of the Administration Council and Minister of Culture and Art, addressing the reception, said that our people are following and holding in high esteem the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as the most tender-hearted father and made it traditional to significantly celebrate April 15, his birthday, as the most auspicious holiday of the nation.

The artistes of different countries and overseas Korean artistes expressed their deep respects and warm feelings of reverence for the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song through colorful and beautiful stages, he said, and continued: The April spring friendship art festival held every year with a large attendance amidst great attention and expectations of our people and world's progressive people is developing day by day. He expressed the belief that the festival would be more beautifully decorated.

Minister of Education and Culture of Tanzania Charles Kabeho in his speech said that the great leader always finds himself among the people and brings their desire and hopes into bloom and wished the Korean people success in their struggle for the reunification of the country.

Head of the Modova Doina Choir of the Soviet Union Aleksei Andniyevskiy in his speech said that the April spring friendship art festival put people of all continents of the globe together at the stage of Pyongyang.

The deputy head of the Chinese circus, speaking at the reception, said that they came to know well through the April Spring Friendship Art Festival that the Korean people under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea and President Kim Il-song gained great successes in the building of their country through an arduous struggle in one mind and purpose as well as brilliant successes in developing national art and efflorescing and developing culture with an excellent tradition.

Progress on Pyongyang Tramway Construction Noted

SK1204050191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 12 (KCNA)—The first-stage tramway project which is under way in Pyongyang has entered the finishing stage.

In four months or more since the ground-breaking, the soldiers and builders have laid the rails in the section of more than 20 km from the Songsin parking lot in Mangyongdae to the Songsin parking lot in Sadong District. They have completed the erecting of poles in this section. Now the laying of electric wires and the construction of substations are progressing at the final stage.

Various types of tramcars including a modern large one with an accommodation of 350 people have been assembled.

A test run in the first-stage section will take place in a few days.

The second-stage tramway project will be completed by April 1992 in some 14 km section from Munsu Street built in the early 1980s to the east Pyongyang thermal power station through Tongil Street which is now under construction and in about 16 km section from the Moranbong youth park to Songsan. Then a loop line project will follow in the next stage.

When these projects are completed, the working people in the capital city will be provided with conveniences in traffic on the highest level.

Kim Il-song Inspects Tramway

SK1404004891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1514 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 13 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today gave an on-the-spot guidance at the site of the first-stage Pyongyang tramway project now on the eve of completion.

He was accompanied by Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK]; O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the C.C. [Central Committee], WPK and minister of People's Armed Forces; Yon Hyong- muk, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., WPK and premier of the Administration Council; Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol, Kim Yong-nam, Choe Kwang, Kye Ung-tae, Chon Pyong-ho, Kang Song-san and So Yun-ok, members of the Political Bureau of the C.C., WPK; Hyon Mu-kwang, Choe Tae-pok, Choe Yong-rim, Hong Song-nam, Kim Chol-man, Kim Pok-sin, Kang Hui-won and Hong Si-hak, alternate members of the Political Bureau of the C.C., WPK; Kim Chung-rin, Pak Nam-ki, So Kwan-hi, Yun Ki-pok, Kim Yong-sun and Hwang Chang-yop, secretaries of the C.C., WPK; and Kim Yun-hyok, Kim Hwan, Kim Tal-hyon and Chang Chol, vice-premiers of the Administration Council.

Also accompanying him were Han Tok-su, chairman, and Chon Yon-sik and Ho Chong-man, vice-chairmen, of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon).

Seeing round the tramway and tramcars, President Kim Il-song expressed deep satisfaction at the fact that soldiers and builders have successfully completed the first-stage Pyongyang tramway project in a short period by vigorously striving to carry the party's plan into practice with intense loyalty to it.

He said the tramway built in Pyongyang which is of weighty significance in resolving the traffic problem in the capital city at a time when many projects for the people are currently under way including the construction of dwelling houses for 50,000 families in Pyongyang thanks to the popular measures of our party which regards it as the supreme principle of its activity to promote the people's wellbeing is one more fine gift our party gives to the citizens of the capital.

The soldiers and builders completed in the main the vast project of tramway extending 20 kilometres from the Songsan parking lot in Mangyongdae district to the Songsin parking lot in Sadong district in a few months on the occasion of the holiday of April.

Kim Il-song Prize Conferred on LSWYK Members

SK1704094991 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The the DPRK Central People's Committee decree on conferring the Kim Il-song Youth Honor Prize on model functionaries of the League of the Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK] and model LSWYK members was announced.

The decree notes that the Kim Il-song Youth Honor Prize is conferred on the following LSWYK functionaries and members who have set examples in preparing themselves as communist revolutionaries endlessly loyal to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and to dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, in organizing and mobilizing LSWYK organizations and members correctly, and in accomplishing given revolutionary missions:

Kim Chol-hui, student of the Kim Il-song University Physics Department; U Hyong-sam, student of the Kim Il-song University Geography Department; Yi Chol, assembler of the Pyongchon educational instruments plant; and Pang Yong-kil, chairman of the primary level LSWYK committee of the Pyongyang trademark printing plant. [passage omitted]

Soldier-Builders Accelerate Building of Hall

SK1504115991 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Interview with Mun Pyong-song, Korean People's Army (KPA) officer working on the Three Revolutions Exhibition Hall in Yonmo-tong, Pyongyang, by station reporter Chang Kuk-hyon; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Chang Kuk-hyon] I am a reporter from the Central Broadcasting Station.

[Mun Pyong-song] Thanks for coming here.

[Chang] I think that the Three Revolutions Exhibition Hall, which will be able to show collectively the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—has been rapidly and speedily built by the soldier-builders' constant struggles. What do you think of it ?

[Mun] Yes, the construction of the Three Revolutions Exhibition Hall, which is being built grandly as a monumental creation in the 1990's, is being vigorously pushed forward by our soldier-builders' devoted efforts and struggles at present. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, some time ago, presented tasks for completing the construction of the Three Revolutions Exhibition Hall and showed us great favor in solving problems arising in the construction. The soldier-builders who belong to our Comrade An Pi-tok unit unanimously participated in the struggle to outstandingly fulfill the tasks expounded by the party. They are achieving great success every day. The soldier-builders, until now, have assembled approximately 10,000 square meters' worth of prefabricated construction materials, poured 10,000 cubic meters of concrete, and built 16,000 cubic meters' worth of structures. So, the Three Revolutions Exhibition Hall has been transfigured every day so that I could hardly recognize it at first. The Three Revolutions Exhibition Hall has occupied a wide site amounting to approximately 100 chongbo [245 acres]. Now, the basic halls of the left and right sides, along the [words indistinct], have been completed in appearance. As you, comrade reporter, see it, the library hall [chongso kwan], which occupies approximately 13,000 square meters of the site, has a dignified appearance. You can see it, can't you?

[Chang] Yes, I can see it.

[Mun] The soldier-builders have completed the framework of the library hall, which is a second-story building with a height of 25 meters. They are assembling the larger roof ridge poles of 36 meters. Besides this, they, being close to finishing the construction, are accelerating the framework of the heavy industrial hall, which is the largest hall; the light industrial hall; the electronic hall, which is being greatly built; and the agricultural hall, which depicts a great bumper crop.

[Chang] The soldier-builders have so far completed a large amount of work. In addition, I think that such a goal for struggle in the future will be high.

[Mun] Of course, our soldier-builders, bearing in mind a firm faith that "what the party decides, we will do," will complete the roof construction with (?handan), and will complete the internal construction of all the halls by 10 October, and will also make a report of loyalty to the great leader and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Workers Effect Innovations in Railway Transport

SK1204151991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1503 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 12 (KCNA)—Transport workers of Korea are effecting a great innovation in railway transport.

They hauled 990,000 more tons of freight in the last one month.

The engine drivers and crews of locomotive corps under the General Bureau of Eastern Railways widely introduced an advanced method of operation and thereby are carrying 4,000 more tons of ores, coal, fertilizer and other materials than the rated traction tonnage every day, taking the general bureau as a whole, while guaranteeing no-breakdown and on-schedule operation.

The General Bureau of Western Railways transported to thermal power plants, metal factories and construction sites 7,500 more tons of coal and cement by 100-ton wagons in the last 20 days than in the preceeding 20 days.

Successes in the endeavourings for increased transport are also reported from Kaechon and the General Bureau of Northern Railways.

Improved Mining Facilities Commissioned 13 Apr

SK1404101291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0827 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—The development project of Changnim mine, a nonferrous metal ore producer, was completed in Korea.

The mine, with a high level of mechanization, is equipped with fine dressing facilities.

A dressing plant newly built at the Taegak mine was commissioned.

The capacity of the dressing plant is double that of the old one.

The Changsang pit went into operation at the Piryugang mine.

The mine will produce high-quality nonferrous metal ores in large quantities.

Commissioning ceremonies were held on the spot on April 13.

Industrial Production Facilities Commissioned

SK1604151991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1457 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 16 (KCNA)—The smeltery No. 727, the Pongnyon Mine, the Nampo Glassware Export Factory, the Tongchon Fishery Export Station, the stone-cutting workshop of the Anbyon Granite Mine and the panty stockings export workshop of the Pyongyang Stockings Factory have been commissioned in Korea.

They will produce a large quantity of non-ferrous metals and metal minerals, light industrial goods, foodstuffs and granite-processed goods.

Their production processes are mechanized and automated.

In particular, the Smeltery No. 727 with a building lot of 100,000 square metres is a non-ferrous metal production base whose processes are operated on an assembly-line.

Editorial Urges Completing 'Socialist Cause'

SK1704115491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries an editorial calling for bringing the socialist cause to completion, rallied closely behind the party and the leader, with the pride and honor of having respected Comrade Kim Il-song as the great leader.

The editorial says:

Holding the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem at the head of the party and the revolution is the decisive factor of all our victories and the greatest pride and honor of our people.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"Our people are full of great pride and honor of holding the great leader in high esteem and living under the best socialist system with the immortal chuche idea under the leadership of the great party.

The long history of the struggle for the cause to independence does not know such veteran leader as the great Comrade Kim Il-song who has performed so great feats for the era and mankind in the protracted and arduous revolutionary struggle for 60 odd years, invariably standing at the head of the party and the revolution.

The great pride and honor of having the great leader in the person of respected Comrade Kim Il-song is the source of the noble ideological and mental traits of deeply revering and trusting him, unequivocally following the chuche idea and valuing socialism of our own style. Only when we all the party members and working people have this pride and honor, will the singlehearted unity of our party and our people be further cemented and will the revolutionary cause of chuche advance more powerfully.

To be deeply aware of the greatness of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song is an important requirement for exalting the pride and honor of holding him in high esteem.

All the party members and working people should be deeply aware of the greatness of the ideology and theory of the party and the leader, their leadership and ideological and mental traits so as to have the deep conviction that they can do anything and surely win under the guidance of the party and the leader.

In order to deeply cherish pride and honor in holding the great leader in high esteem, it is also important that all the officials and working people get a better knowledge of the history of the glorious struggles which has emerged victorious under the guidance of the party and the leader and the great, epoch-making changes which have been brought about in this course.

The pride and honor is exalted in the practice of implementing the party's line and policy.

Our people's pride and honor of having respected Comrade Kim Il-song as the great leader and dynamically advancing towards the future of communism under the party's leadership is rising higher with the passage of the time, editorial stresses.

KCNA Review of 16 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK1604054891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang April 16 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received overseas Koreans delegations and overseas compatriots.

Appearing in the press is a message of greetings of President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Queen Margrethe the Second of Denmark on the national day of Denmark, her birthday.

Seen in NODONG SINMUN is a solidarity message to President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from Sam Nujoma, president of the Republic of Namibia, supporting the reunification of Korea.

Carried in the paper are messages of greetings to President Kim Il-song from foreign party and state leaders in celebration of his birthday as well as a report that he received messages of greetings from the "Mindan" [South] -lining compatriots and South Koreans staying in Japan.

According to the paper, President Kim Il-song received messages from heads of state of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, Tunisia and Libya in reply to his messages of greetings sent to them on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the proclamation of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, the national holiday of the Republic of Tunisia and the 14th anniversary of the proclamation of the Jamahiriya in Libya.

Immortal classical works of President Kim Il-song were studied and disseminated abroad, says the paper.

The paper reports that Comrade Fidel Castro, president of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, in his toast at the banquet at the Korean Embassy in Havana in celebration of the birthday of President Kim Il-song stressed that the august name of Comrade Kim Il-song is widely known to the world and all people respect and revere him.

The paper runs an article saying that working people visit the old home in Mangyongdae where President Kim Il-song was born, with best wishes.

Thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea were conveyed to the employees of the Nampo glassware export factory who performed feats of labor in the construction of the factory, says the paper.

"Thoroughly establishing the party's monolithic ideological system is important demand for officials of power bodies to remain faithful to revolution to the last" is the title of a MINJU CHOSON article.

Given in the press are accounts of a reception given by the Administration Council for the participants in the Ninth April Spring Friendship Art Festival on the occasion of April 15 and the sojourn in Pyongyang of the participants in the festival.

Given in the press is an account of a grand joint national meeting of the Korean Children's Union organizations held in the May Day Stadium to celebrate the birthday of the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song.

Working people across the country and school youth and children in Pyongyang significantly celebrated the April holiday, says the press. NODONG SINMUN reports that the Cuban paper GRANMA published an article on the occasion of April 15, a meeting was held in new Delhi, a special issue of bulletin was published in Guinea on this occasion and an opening ceremony of the DPRK book, photo and handiwork exhibition was held in Peru.

Kim Hui-won, former chairman of the South Korean Kangwon Provincial District Committee of the "Reunification Democratic Party" and central permanent member of the "Democratic Liberal Party", on a visit to the northern half of Korea went round different places of Pyongyang, reports the press.

Papers report about the sojourn of the Korea unified table tennis team in Japan.

NODONG SINMUN gives an account of an opening ceremony of the Korea-China friendship training centre of computer technicians.

Papers run commentaries denouncing the provocative outburst of the South Korean puppet minister of defence threatening to make a surprise destruction of "atomic reactor facilities" of the North by infiltrating commandoes.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article entitled "Worsening Japan-U.S. Dispute in Rice Trade".

Papers observe the national day of Denmark.

KCNA Review of 17 Apr NODONG SINMUN

SK1704054791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today reports that President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia, who paid a congratulatory call on him.

Seen in the daily is a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song to Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the independence of Syria.

The daily edits congratulatory messages to President Kim Il-song from foreign party and state leaders on the occasion of his 79th birthday.

It editorially calls for exalting the honour and pride of holding the great leader in high esteem.

It gives accounts of functions held at home and abroad in celebration of the holiday of April including reports that a special envoy of the Egyptian president paid a visit to the DPRK Embassy in Cairo on the occasion of the birthday of President Kim Il-song, a meeting and a film show were held in Cuba to celebrate April 15, a central meeting of Koreans in Japan was held in Tokyo to celebrate his birthday.

It tells a story about President Kim Il-song's wise guidance to socialist rural construction.

XINHUA News Agency of China gave publicity to on-the-spot guidance of President Kim Il-song at the site of first-stage Pyongyang tramway project on the eve of completion, according to the daily.

In an article it conveys voices of South Korean people highly praising the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the lodestar, guiding star of national reunification.

Echoed in the paper are voices of world public wishing President Kim Il-song good health and long life.

The paper introduces economic achievements including innovations in the production of coal and iron and steel.

Printed in the daily is a statement issued by Chon Chae-son, deputy chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army, denouncing the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities for their recent bellicose outbursts which may bring the situation on the Korean peninsula to the extreme pitch of strain.

The 15th, 17th and 18th parts of the Korean documentary film "Great History" recording a part of the glorious and brilliant revolutionary history of President Kim Il-song have been released, says the paper.

It informs the readers that the first term of camping this year began at Children's Union camps.

It reports that the spokesman of the Korean Student Committee in an interview with KCNA denounced the South Korean authorities for blocking the delegates of "Chondaehyop" from coming out to Panmunjom to discuss the August 14 reunification festival of students of the North and the South.

A conference of political parties, public organizations and organs at all levels for the "international solidarity march supporting the reunification of Korea" and a signature campaign was held in Peru and the inaugural ceremony of the March was held in Sweden, reports the paper.

It is reported in the paper that South Korean students fought against the planned South Korean trip of the Soviet president and five organizations and an opposition party of South Korea issued a statement denouncing the criminal scheme of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges for aggression on the North.

In a semi-monthly review of the South Korean situation, the paper says the South Korean people have waged a powerful struggle against the fascist repression by the No Tae-u ruling group.

It informs the readers that the Cuban paper GRANMA published an article on the 30th anniversary of the proclamation of the socialist nature of the Cuban revolution, the Peruvian president visited China, the Egyptian president called for unity of Arab countries, the Guinean president stressed the importance of national unity, the African National Congress of South Africa published a draft constitution of a new state and the U.N. Security Council decided to deploy U.N. Peacekeeping Forces along the borders between Iraq and Kuwait.

The paper observes the 45th anniversary of Syria's independence.

It introduces achievements in the building of a new society in Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Nepal and India.

An article of it says that the U.S. imperialists are persistently militarizing the economy and resorting to the moves of aggression and war.

South Korea

Yi Sang-ok, Envoy Discuss Gorbachev Visit

SK1404034891 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok yesterday called Soviet Ambassador Oleg Sokolov and discussed agenda items for the summit talks between President No Tae-u and President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The content of the meeting between Yi and Sokolov was not immediately known. But informed sources said that North Korea's refusal to join nuclear safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) might top the agenda items for the forthcoming summit talks on Friday.

North Korean production and exports of Soviet-made Scud missiles, which pose a threat to South Korea, is also expected to be discussed during the third summit on Cheju Island.

In the meantime, South Korean Ambassador to Moscow Kong No-myong will arrive here tomorrow.

A Soviet advance party will arrive here Wednesday to prepare for President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to South Korea, a Chongwadae official said yesterday.

Gorbachev is scheduled to arrive on Cheju-do Friday afternoon for talks with President No Tae-u on his way back from his official visit to Japan.

The time and place of the summit will be set through negotiations between the Soviet team and its Korean counterpart, according to the official.

When asked what time the summit would begin, the official said, "Gorbachev's detailed itinerary for his Japan visit has yet to be fixed. We are still discussing with the Soviet side about the time."

It is widely speculated that the Soviet leader might arrive on the southern island around 6 p.m., a rather late hour for summit talks.

But, the official hinted that the arrival time could be advanced a little.

No 'To Personally Welcome' Gorbachev 19 Apr

SK1504025691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0238 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u will be at Cheju International Airport on Friday to personally welcome Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev to Korea, a Korean Government source said Monday.

Protocol for the Soviet President's brief stopover will be that for a "state visit" even though he is only on an "official working visit" to the peninsula's southernmost island, the source said. Gorbachev is likely to arrive between 6 P.M. and 7 P.M.

"The exact time of arrival and departure, and details concerning protocol procedures, will be finalized after a Soviet advance team arrives on Wednesday," the source said.

Korean Ambassador to Moscow Kong No-myong arrived Monday and briefed Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and other officials on his consultations with Soviet officials about the itinerary.

An inter-ministerial protocol team headed by Protocol Chief Chang Sun-sop will be sent to Cheju Wednesday, the source said.

The venue of the No-Gorbachev summit has yet to be fixed, but the Hotel Shilla Cheju in Chungmun tourist complex is a likely candidate.

As Gorbachev's stay on Cheju will be very brief, an extended summit attended by ministers on both sides will probably be combined with dinner.

Students Hold Another Anti-Gorbachev Rally

OW1704123291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1207 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 17 KYODO—South Korean students clashed with police at a rally on a Seoul University campus Wednesday against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's planned visit to South Korea on Friday.

The clash took place at Hanyang University, where about 2,000 students held a protest rally against Gorbachev's planned visit to South Korea after his four-day stay in Japan. No serious injuries were reported.

Riot police stormed the campus to crush the rally and fired tear gas bombs at the students, who hurled fire bombs and stones at the riot police.

Gorbachev is scheduled to visit Cheju Island, South Korea, late Friday for talks with South Korean President No Tae-u in a brief stopover on the way home after his Japan visit.

Gorbachev and No are expected to discuss the situation on the Korean peninsula and East Asia, including the opening of North Korean nuclear facilities to international inspection.

The students chanted for the overthrow of the No administration and shouted that the Gorvachev-No talks would internationally isolate North Korea and perpetuate the division of the Korean peninsula.

Official Expects Gorbachev Support for UN Entry

SK1704142491 Seoul YONHAP in English 1244 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—The Soviet Union is expected to give warmer support to South Korea's policy of seeking simultaneous but separate entry by South and North Korea into the United Nations during President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to South Korea slated for later this week, a government official here said Wednesday.

The official said Gorbachev and South Korean President No Tae-u are likely to reaffirm their earlier agreement that it is desirable for South and North Korea to seek membership in the United Nations simultaneously in accordance with the principle of universality of U.N. membership.

He said the Soviet leader may assent in a more positive manner than before to South Korea's position that Seoul has no choice but to seek join the world body unilaterally if Pyongyang continues rejecting its proposal for simultaneous entry to the last. [sentence as received]

The Soviet leader will suggest a collective security system as a device to settle peace and stability in Northeast Asia in his meetings with No. The official said No will probably explain his thought that any initiative at change in the military balance in the region would hardly be realized unless inter-Korean problems are resolved.

No will stress that neighboring countries should take up positive attitudes to the settlement of Korean problems with a view to eradicating threats of war in Asia and the Pacific region, it was said.

No and Gorbachev are expected to reconfirm the basic position of the Soviet Union that Moscow would suspend any supply of nuclear-related materials and technology to Pyongyang unless North Korea opens its nuclear facilities to international scrutiny.

The two leaders will reaffirm their common position that the two countries would closely cooperate with each other for the improvement of inter-Korean dialogue, exchange and cooperation in accordance with the Moscow declaration adopted in December when No visited the Soviet Union at Gorbachev's invitation.

Gorbachev will arrive at Cheju International Airport in Cheju Island, off the southern tip of the Korean peninsula, at around 7 P.M. Friday (KST) [Korean Standard Time] for summit talks with No on his way back from Japan.

Officials here said the summit talks will be held an hour later at Hotel Shilla Cheju in Chungmun sightseeing complex near Soguipo in the southern part of the island. Their meetings will comprise two rounds of tete-a-tete, an expanded summit to be attended by senior advisors and a dinner.

North's Kim Il-song Birthday Atmosphere Viewed

SK1704012291 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Apr 91 p 8

[Editorial: "Kim's Birthday Under Siege"]

[Text] The flamboyant, though artificially choreographed, celebrations of North Korean President Kim Il-song's birthday week have been spoiled by the forthcoming visit of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to South Korea to meet with President No Tae-u on his way back to Moscow from Japan.

The diplomatic crosscurrents in and around the Korean Peninsula that threaten the survival of the hard-line Communist state are so turbulent that it was hardly the right time for festivities. Yet, "the Great Leader" saw that his 79th birthday Monday was celebrated with flashy and costly events.

Yet the cheers from his captive populace and hired performing troupes from other countries could not drown out the echoes of crumbling world socialism, nor hide the bleak future of the increasingly isolated and economically hard-pressed country.

Its traditional and strongest ally, the Soviet Union, gave the cold shoulder to Pyongyang by establishing full diplomatic ties with Seoul last September. Then Gorbachev decided to add insult to injury by skipping North Korea to visit the South during his Far East tour.

Another blow to North Korea came on the very birthday of Kim from a ranking Soviet official, Vladlen Martynov, who said in Tokyo that Moscow has warned North Korea it will stop supplying it with nuclear fuel if Pyongyang refuses to allow inspection of its facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Kim has built one of the world's largest armies and an arsenal of Scud-type missiles. Western satellite photographs endorse the theory that North Korea is developing its own nuclear weapons. But Pyongyang has persistently rejected the international safeguard requirement.

The dismal foreign front is matched by no less painful conditions at home. The birthday of Kim, who is at the center of the world's most bizarre personality cult, meant the exceptional ration of 1kg of pork and confectionary to each household in half-starved North Korea.

In an apparent move to avoid international criticism about human rights violations North Korea has been relocating political concentration camps to less visible areas. Complaints about food shortages and the dynastic succession bid in favor of Kim Chong-il are also becoming widespread. Abandonment of doctrinarian rigidity and revolutionary militancy and extensive reforms could put Pyongyang into the mainstream of present-day world politics.

USSR 'Ready' to Transfer Nuclear Technology

SK1704014691 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] A top Soviet nuclear scientist said yesterday that the Soviet Union is ready to transfer to Korea all of its advanced nuclear technology including fast breeder reactor and uranium enriching processes.

"If Korea wants, we will transfer liquid-lead cooled fast reactor technology, developed by the Soviet Union most recently," said Victor V. Orlov, president of the Soviet Nuclear Society, a prestigious nuclear scientists organization.

Orlov made the remarks on nuclear technology transfer after exchanging a memorandum of cooperation in the field of nuclear energy with An Pyong-hwa, president of the Korea Atomic Industrial Forum Inc. (KAIF) at the Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel in Seoul.

Orlov came to Korea to participate in the 6th KAIF/Korea Nuclear Society Annual Conference which closes today. The Soviet scientist made a keynote speech titled "Nuclear power in the USSR: Status and prospects" at yesterday's session.

"The Soviet Union is most advanced in fast breeder reactor research and we have developed a reactor-cooling method using liquid-lead, instead of inflammable sodium as a coolant," Orlov said.

"We expect that we will have commercialized the liquid-lead cooling fast breed reactor in 12 years," Orlov said. "In the course of the fast reactor development, we will actively cooperate and exchange information with Korean nuclear scientists."

He said the Soviet Union can also provide Korea with centrifugal separation uranium enriching, radioactive waste treatment, nuclear fuel reprocessing, water pressurized reactor (PWR) and RBMK reactor technologies. RBMK reactors, developed by the Soviet Union, are now used in Hungary, Britain, France and Canada, he added.

Asked to comment on a media report that Soviet presidential spokesman Vitaliy Ignatenko warned North Korea that Moscow will stop supplying all nuclear supplies and cooperation unless Pyongyang allows international inspection of its nuclear facilities, Orlov said he thinks that it is an "appropriate" step in light of "international tradition."

He refused further comment on the sensitive issue, quipping, "As far as the matter is concerned, you'd better ask Mr. (Mikhail) Gorbachev who will visit Korea shortly."

When asked about the verity of a Soviet scientist's claim that the Chernobyl nuclear explosion five years ago killed up to 10,000 people, Orlov flatly denied the allegation, saying, "Only 30 people were killed and some 300 were hospitalized due to the accident."

British daily Independent Sunday reported that Vladimir Chernousenko, the scientific director in charge of a 30 km exclusion zone around the stricken power station, said the disaster claimed between 7,000 and 10,000 lives and most of those who died were miners and soldiers who died from radiation doses received while clearing up after the disaster.

Orlov said that after the accident, an anti-nuclear movement sprang up in the Soviet Union and as a result, the Soviet government has had to readjust its nuclear program.

The Soviet nuclear expert said all of the radioactivity was cleared up and presently three reactors of the Chernobyl plant are in normal operation. Their operation rate is 70 percent, he added.

The No. 4 reactor which was exploded was completely sealed with concrete and its inside is constantly monitored. "The Soviet authorities plan to bury the reactor for good," said the 61-year-old doctor of physics.

He said two reactors in Armenia were closed down and construction of a score of Chernobyl-type reactors was suspended after the mishap.

At present, the Soviet Union has 45 reactors in operation and they produce 13 percent of the total electricity generated in the country.

"The once military-oriented Soviet nuclear industry is increasing interested in peaceful use of atomic energy," Orlov said.

Youth League Applies for Project With North

SK1604134491 Seoul YONHAP in English 1244 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—South and North Korean youth may meet coming August for joint river exploration, crossing across the heavily fortified inter-Korean border.

If approved, it will be a first union of youths of the two sides since the national division in 1945.

The (South) Korean Maritime Youth League said Tuesday it filed an application with the National Unification Board (NUB) for an approval to contact North Korean Socialist Working Youth League, its proposed partner for the project to field a joint team.

The exploration team, to be made up of about 80 high school students and 20 youth leaders, will conduct ecological and hydrographical survey of Han River in the South and Taedong River in the North, total length of about 110km, the South Korean League said.

The ground connection between the two rivers will most likely be through the truce village of Panmunjom, the League said.

Official proposal to the North Korean partner will be made toward the end of this month as soon as NUB approves the project. South Koreans by law are required to report to the authorities before contacting North Korea.

The South Korean League was formed in 1980 and has some 40,000 members. The river exploration project was reportedly pursued by the current Sports and Youth Minister Pak Chol-on after he took office last February.

North Invited to Korean Ethnic Sports Meet

SK1704062891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0608 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sik, president of the World Korean Ethnic Festival Committee, Wednesday invited North Korea to send a team to the second ethnic Koreans sports meet, slated for Sept. 11-20 in Seoul.

"It is natural for our North Korean brethren to participate in this sports festival. We will do our utmost for this," Kim told a news conference.

"Although we have had informal contacts with the northern side for North Korean participation in the sports meet, it is the first time that we offer a formal proposal to North Korea.

"Whether we invite North Koreans will be determined by the northern side's reaction to this proposal."

The invitations, if sent, could be delivered through the truce village of Panmunjom, he said.

Youth and cultural events will be added to the existing sports and 1,872 ethnic Koreans from 100 nations will be invited to the friendly competition—1,072 for sports, 500 for youth events, 200 for cultural events and 100 for academic activities.

Ethnic musicians and artists and scholars of Koreanology are to attend activities during the sports, he said.

In 1989, about 1,300 athletes and officials from 48 countries took part in the first world Korean ethnic sports festival. Of them, 150 came from China and 147 from the Soviet Union.

North's Reaction to Minister's Remarks Noted

SK1704135891 Seoul YONHAP in English 1330 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korea on Wednesday called on South Korea's National Assembly to condemn defense minister or risk seeing its delegates barred from attending an Interparliamentary Union (IPU) meeting to be opened in Pyongyang on April 29.

The warning was given in response to recent remarks by Seoul's Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku that the South could launch a commando raid on Northern nuclear facilities if Pyongyang continues rejecting international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly said, in a telephone message sent to his Southern counterpart Pak Chun-kyu, "If your side politically patronizes and backs government officials who threaten a surprise military attack upon us, there will be no justifiable cause for you to visit Pyongyang and sit together with us."

South and North Korea agreed early this month that the South would send 25 delegates to the IPU meeting slated for April 29-May 5 in Pyongyang. It has widely been taken as a breakthrough in the presently stalled inter-Korean dialogue.

Yi's remarks, Yang said, "are tantamount to acts of giving up dialogue, denying peaceful unification and declaring war against us...you are yet to clarify your position towards the opposition parties' demand for the dismissal of the military official."

"We take his remarks neither as his personal opinion nor as a slip of tongue but as reflecting the real intention of the ruling group and the United States which occupies the South by force," he added.

The controversial remarks last week by Defense Minister Yi were immediately withdrawn by his Ministry, which said Yi was misunderstood by the press.

Meanwhile, a government official said there would be no serious problem in Seoul's participation in the IPU meeting despite Pyongyang's open threat against it. He reminded that the North dropped its demand for the release of those imprisoned for unauthorized visits to Pyongyang on the eve of the first high-level inter-Korean talks last year.

Seoul To Compensate Firm in Trade With North

SK1304084791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0759 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 13 (OANA-YONHAP)—The government will fully compensate any losses to Chonji Trading Co. in its direct barter trade deal with North Korea, the National Unification Board (NUB) said Saturday.

The compensation will come out of the inter-Korean cooperation fund which was set up specifically to support trade activities between South and North Korea.

Chonji will be delivering 5,000 tons of South Korean rice to Kumgangsan International Trade and Development Co. in the North in exchange for 30,000 tons of coal and 11,000 tons of cement. This marks the first direct barter deal between the two sides since the national division in 1945.

The South Korean company will be signing a contract with the Export-Import bank of Korea, which is in charge of the inter-Korean cooperation fund, that guarantees compensation if the market price of North Korean goods falls lower than that of the exported rice, NUB officials said.

Regulations state that compensations can cover up to 90 percent of the loss incurred during inter-Korean trade.

Chonji reportedly decided to use a Panamanian-flagged vessel from Samsung Shipping Co. to deliver the goods, manned by 13 crew members, five from South Korea and eight from the Philippines.

The North Korean goods will travel from Nampo in the north to Inchon in the South as already agreed. Chonji is planning to negotiate with Kumgangsan to ship the rice from Mokpo in the South to Nampo in the North.

Direct Barter Trade With DPRK Outlined

SK1704065091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0604 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—The first South Korean company to sign a direct barter trade contract with North Korea was not Cheonji Trading Co. but Doosung Co., a small, little-known trading company in Seoul.

Doosung concluded a contract in December with Kumgangsan International Trade and Development Corp. of North Korea to exchange 1.3 million U.S. dollars worth of goods by the end of February 1992.

Doosung was to send 500 refrigerators and 240 color television sets of the same value as North Korean cement, spelter, artifacts and paintings, government and industry sources said Wednesday.

Cheonji concluded an agreement with Kumgangsan in March to swap 5,000 tons of rice for 41,000 tons of coal and cement.

A total of 11,243 North Korean art works worth 650,000 dollars arrived at Pusan port on Feb. 15 and Doosung will soon ship electronic products of an equal value to the North.

Lucky-Goldstar Co. signed a contract in February with a Chinese broker to sell 30,000 barrels of high sulfur diesel oil for ships to North Korea for 1.4 million dollars.

The diesel will be shipped from Yosu port to North Korea's Nampo port this month and will be paid for in cash.

The government approved the Lucky-Goldstar sale of diesel, a strategic item, to promote inter-Korean exchange, they said.

Overseas Mission Chiefs To Discuss UN Entry

SK1504004791 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Korean diplomatic mission chiefs will begin their week-long meeting in Seoul today to discuss a variety of issues, including the country's possible entry into the United Nations this year.

Also to be discussed, according to the Foreign Ministry, are Seoul's northern diplomacy, a new international order following the Gulf war and steps to overcome regional protectionism and boost exports.

Envoys posted in the Asian region will discuss ways to improve relations with China and respond to North Korea's efforts to normalize relations with Japan and Southeast Asian countries.

The American region will cover ways to cope with the move toward an economic coalition and Pyongyang's efforts to improve relations with nations in Central and South America.

The recent developments in Soviet Union and Germany's impact on Europe will be tackled by heads of missions in European countries, and the participants from Middle East and African posts will discuss ways to help developing countries with the economy and technology.

There will also be group meeting to discuss five important diplomatic issues—the U.N. membership, economic ties with socialist countries, the European Community, the Gulf war and Asia-Pacific economic cooperation (APEC).

The ambassadors to the United States, Japan and Britain, and the head of the U.N. observer mission will not attend the annual conferences.

No Chae-pong Urges Efforts To Open Up North

SK1704013691 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister No Chae-pong yesterday called for all-out diplomatic efforts to have North Korea open up in his speech at the opening ceremony of the annual meeting of chiefs of Korean diplomatic missions abroad.

"Now is the time for us to exert all diplomatic efforts to have North Korea open up and to promote inter-Korean dialogue so that the groundwork can be laid for early unification," No told 94 chiefs of Korean missions overseas.

He said that North Korea will be unable to negate the entities of the South and the North on the Korean peninsula on the occasion of the summit meeting between Korea and the Soviet Union Friday and will have to take on a more realistic policy.

Prime Minister No also called for beefing up efforts for early entry into the United Nations so that South Korea can play a role in the international community commensurate to its status.

No said, "Now, the Cold War system which has been dominant for the past four decades is collapsing and an era of reconciliation and cooperation is about to emerge."

"The emerging new world order is expected to provide us with the golden opportunity to solve national problems. It also gives us a good chance to put an end to national division, the legacy of the Cold War, and to advance national unification," said No.

He called upon diplomatic mission chiefs to redouble their efforts to realize the major diplomatic goals, taking advantage of the favorable international climate.

* North Korea-Japan Talks Highlight Differences

912C0162A Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean 17 Feb 91 pp 44-47

[Article by Kim Yun-kon, CHUGAN CHOSON Editorial Board member: "North Korea's Strategy for Big Money, Japan's Focus on Removing Nuclear Threat—Where Is the Tug of War in the North Korea-Japan Talks Headed?"]

[Text] North Korea and Japan held their first-round full-dress normalization talks in late January in Pyongyang and agreed to have the second-round meeting sometime in the first half of March in Tokyo. Both sides so far have only acknowledged differences between them. Commenting on the future of the talks, Japan's senior delegate, Ambassador Noboru Nakahira, personally said "Only God knows," hinting at a difficult sailing ahead.

The Pyongyang meeting agreed to an agenda based on results of the three preliminary sessions held earlier and heard the senior delegates of both sides state their respective positions. This only showed a distinct divergence between the two countries, however, on everything ranging from their perceptions of history to specific demands.

First, in respect to Japan's basic posture, Nakahira stated that "we regret that there existed an unfortunate relationship over a certain period in the past," recalling that in this connection, in March 1989, then Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita expressed Japan's "profound self-examination and regrets" at a parliamentary session, and that the present prime minister, Toshiki Kaifu, also once made similar remarks.

However, North Korea's senior delegate Chon In-chol demanded that Japan formally express its apology in writing, in an official document, for the losses and damage it inflicted on the Korean people in the past, and that it declare illegal and null and void the 1910 Korea-Japan treaty of annexation and all other treaties and agreements signed between Japan and the old Korea. The ROK-Japan treaty and agreements signed on 22 June 1965 contain no such Japanese apology clause. Also, referring to the treaty and agreements between Japan and the old Korea, the ROK-Japan basic treaty "affirms" that they are "already ('mohaya' in Japanese) invalid" but contains no references defining them as having been illegal. The Japanese word "mohaya" has an implication closer to "at this point of time." Therefore, it might induce the interpretation that the annexation treaty and other treaties and agreements responsible for Korea's colonization had been justifiable at the time. If North Korea should succeed in gaining Japan's concession over the word "illegal," it would amount to obtaining a more extensive Japanese apology than that in the ROK-Japan basic treaty.

Next, with the reparation issue, North Korea noted that in addition to the fact that Japan and the old Korea were in a suzerain state - colony relationship, "Japan and the Korean people were in a state of war." For this reason, it stated, North Korea has the right to demand reparations in addition to its claims.

Claims would occur between the former colonial ruler country and the ruled. In this case, the object of claim is property. The former colonial ruler country has the right of claim to buildings and other real properties built in the colony as well as moveable properties and bonds, while the ruled has its right of claim to such things as unpaid wages and bank deposits.

Reparations occur between countries that were in a state of war. They are for compensating damage.

At the time of the ROK-Japan normalization, the two sides agreed to respectively relinquish their claims to each other, and that Japan would provide economic cooperation consisting of $300 million in gift plus $200 million in loans.

Japan paid reparations to the Philippines and Burma. But China and the Soviet Union waived their right to reparations.

North Korea seeks a number of things with the compensation issue, which is the biggest single pragmatic factor that brought North Korea to the table of talks with Japan on normalization.

A Design To Gain Recognition of Kim Il-song's Distorted History

First of all, North Korea is attempting to acquire as much money as possible from Japan. Also behind the move is a hidden design to gain recognition of its claim that "the great leader General Kim Il-song" had formally opened an anti-Japanese front, fought Japan for 15 years and won—a claim distorting history.

Japan in its response recognizes that there is a claim issue to be resolved between North Korea and Japan, noting, however, that since there was no state of war between the two countries, it cannot accept the concept of reparation or compensation. Japan takes the position that Kim Il-song's anti-Japanese campaign only involved a small unit within the Chinese communist forces and that was all, that there was no such thing as a declaration of war between Japan and the Korean people.

In September 1990, Japan's Shin Kanemaru, an influential leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and former deputy prime minister, and Socialist Party of Japan [JSP] Vice Chairman Makoto Tanabe visited Pyongyang and signed a joint declaration with the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] to the effect that the 36 prewar and wartime colonial years and the 45 postwar years will be the objects of compensations.

North Korea, based on this joint declaration, seeks maximum "reparations" from Japan. At the first-round talks, however, Nakahira declared that the Japanese Government is not bound by a joint declaration signed by political parties.

There is no telling how the issue will be resolved. There have been no official figures shown either about the amount of money involved, although freely circulating rumors have it at "$5 billion" or "$7 billion." Those rumors are based on an estimate that "if the ROK-Japan normalization settlement—$500 million in economic cooperation—is used as the base, and if the interest and inflation rates are considered on a compound interest basis, it comes to a $4 billion to $5 billion figure."

The third important issue in the North Korea-Japan talks is the question of nuclear inspection. North Korea became a signatory of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1985 but has been refusing to permit an inspection of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which is an obligation of signatories, thus generating strong suspicion that North Korea is developing nuclear weapons. The inspection of North Korean nuclear facilities is being demanded not only by the ROK and the United States but by the Soviet Union as well. As the only country ever hit by atomic bombs, Japan has a unique allergy against nuclear weapons.

Japan points out that North Korea's development of nuclear weapons is a grave threat to the peace and stability of Northeast Asia including the Korean Peninsula, as well as to the security of Japan.

In response, North Korea, proceeding from the position that the nuclear inspection issue is not a matter for North Korea-Japan talks to deal with, puts out these conditions for its resolution: 1) withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from the Korean Peninsula, and 2) a U.S. pledge against a nuclear attack on North Korea.

However, in view of the possibility of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn using nuclear weapons in the Gulf War, the United States feels an urgent need for a more strict control of nuclear facilities. Therefore, the North Korea-Japan normalization talks have an element suggesting that the talks are not just the two countries' business but involve the common interests of all the countries in the

Northeast Asian region. In other words, the United States will, through Japan, try to check North Korea's nuclear arms development, while North Korea will, also through Japan, attempt to achieve a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. This issue, the Japanese side foresees, will create a complex situation with the ROK national security interests and U.S.-North Korea relations embroiled in it.

Consequently, Japan, for now, maintains a very cautious stance in the normalization talks with North Korea. At a time it is unknown yet how the Gulf War will end, and with a clear-cut outline yet to emerge of a new world order to be structured by the United States after the Gulf War, the Japanese side just maintains a wait-and-see attitude.

A look at the current North Korea-Japan relations indicates that there is no reason for Japan to be hasty. Now that the Fujisan Maru crewmen have been released, Japan has no specific demands to press to North Korea. About the question of paying the pledged price for the release of the Fujisan Maru crewmen, the Japanese Government cleverly plans to be evasive by not having Kanemaru and Tanabe in the forefront of its relations with North Korea.

Early Settlement Possible If Environments Cooperate

In contrast, North Korea has an urgent need for Japan's reparation payment to overcome its severe economic difficulty. In a gesture that could be seen as betraying their fretfulness and expectations, North Korean authorities gave the Japanese delegation a warm reception during its stay in Pyongyang, despite the obvious differences demonstrated at the negotiating table.

Nevertheless, it is possible that the North Korea-Japan talks can reach a settlement at an unexpectedly early date should the circumstances surrounding the talks develop favorably, because both sides are, first of all, diplomatically backed up by a domestic consensus.

In North Korea's case, the man in power arbitrarily determines the conduct of foreign policy as he does all other policies. Even if the basic position should be modified in the process of the talks, there will be no opposition heard domestically.

Meanwhile, in Japan—unlike at the time of the ROK-Japan talks when the JSP and other opposition parties and leftist forces voiced strong protests against the parley—the ruling and opposition camps are united over the talks with North Korea and, moreover, even the rightist wing raised no objection. Even when the Japanese Foreign Ministry working-level officials refused to accept the three-party [LDP-JSP-WPK] joint declaration announced during the Pyongyang visit of Kanemaru and Tanabe, neither the LDP nor the JSP uttered a word of dissatisfaction or complaint. The Japanese Government and public are united as far as the Japan-North Korea talks are concerned. This means that Japan can turn flexible in the course of the talks.

In the talks, Japan may work to secure its interests under the pretext of Asian stability. Also, under the pretext of paying due consideration to ROK interests, it may borrow the ROK-Japan treaty and various agreements—which in 1965 were labeled national disgrace and triggered waves of protest in South Korea—for use as models.

Japanese Team Made Up By South Korea Experts

In fact, the Japanese diplomatic team steering the talks with North Korea is made up by persons familiar with ROK affairs. This makes it imperative for the ROK Government to keep a close watch on developments in the talks.

Nakahira, the Japanese senior delegate, served as the chief of the Northeast Asia Division of the Asian Affairs Bureau, a Foreign Ministry division in charge of Korean Peninsula affairs, for two and one-half years from December 1970. He also served as assistant to Nobuhiko Ushiba when Ushiba was minister of external economic affairs. He is known for his diplomatic ability in the field of economic cooperation. In an interview dealing with the talks, he quoted the saying "A clear stream is avoided by fish," hinting—rather prematurely—at the possibility of deals being struck behind the scenes.

Also, Sakutaro Tanino, director of the Asian Affairs Bureau, who earlier represented Japan at the preliminary talks, is a veteran diplomat who has been assigned exclusively to ROK relations. He once served as minister to Seoul and subsequently as councilor of the Asian Affairs Bureau.

Haruhiko Shibuya, a councilor of the Japanese Foreign Ministry also deeply involved with the talks with North Korea, is another authority on ROK affairs. Immediately after he was appointed chief of the Northeast Asia Division in January 1985, he reportedly tried to explore for a new relationship with North Korea by bringing the Fujisan Maru incident that had occurred one year and four months earlier to a settlement. Shibuya wrote to then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone to the effect that he "would like to resolve the Fujisan Maru issue one way or another" and obtained Nakasone's approval.

At the time, however, North Korea had little diplomatic sensitivity—as seen in the Rangoon terrorist incident it caused [against touring ROK officials]—and, consequently, failed to respond to overtures from Shibuya. Since his first contact with a North Korean Foreign Ministry official in January 1986, he had six secret meetings with North Koreans to resolve the issue. Although the Fujisan Maru issue was, ostensibly, finally settled by such political leaders as Kanemaru and Tanabe, the credit, needless to say, goes to the invisible efforts by Shibuya and his team.

In the process of handling the difficult bargaining with North Korea while in charge of ROK affairs, Shibuya came to have good knowledge about North and South Korea at the same time.

It goes without saying that working-level officials at the Japanese Foreign Ministry assigned to the North Korea talks under Nakahira, Tanino and Shibuya are also all experts on ROK affairs.

They are able to push negotiations effectively while paying the ROK position a measured consideration. The ROK diplomacy should be as effective in its response to the North Korea-Japan talks.

Japan Sets Policy in Negotiations With DPRK

SK1204075191 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 12 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] On 11 April, Japan revealed that it will not accept the expression "one Korea," which North Korea insisted on, in the course of negotiations with North Korea for Japan-North Korea diplomatic relations.

Noboru Nakahira, ambassador without portfolio in the Japanese Foreign Ministry and head of the delegation from Japan to full-dress talks for establishing diplomatic relations between Japan and North Korea, paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok on 11 April. At this meeting, he explained, "The expression 'one Korea' in the joint statement of delegations of political parties from Japan and North Korea in September last year has been criticized because it resulted from steps which were taken in diplomatic issues by Japanese politicians but the steps were taken in an amateurish manner."

Seoul Informed About Tokyo-Moscow Declaration

SK1704062291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0537 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—Japan and the Soviet Union have informed South Korea about parts of their planned joint declaration, specifically those sections concerning the Korean peninsula, a government official said Wednesday.

The declaration, expected Thursday after summit talks between Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, will include three main ideas concerning South and North Korea, the official said.

The ideas, according to the notice, stress the importance of peace and stability on the Korean peninsula not just for Northeast Asia but for the world, clarifies the consensus between Japan and the Soviet Union that peace and stability must take root on the Korean peninsula and notes that both countries are evaluating recent developments in Seoul-Moscow ties.

"Japan and the Soviet Union are likely to agree during the summit this week that they both need to contribute to creating the right conditions to solve the inter-Korean issue," the official said.

Gorbachev, who winds up his four-day visit to Japan Friday, is stopping over on Korea's southern island of Cheju on his way home for a brief summit with President No Tae-u.

OECD Membership Sought Within 'Few Years'

SK1704025191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0217 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea hopes to qualify for a seat at the same table as the world's economically advanced nations by becoming a full member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) within a few years, the Economic Planning Board (EPB) said Wednesday.

The EPB and Foreign, Finance and Trade and Industry ministries and two think tanks will dispatch a joint research team to OECD headquarters in Paris from April 24 to 30 to inquire about entry procedures and details.

The team will consult with M. Taniguchi, who is in charge of non-member nations at the OECD Secretariat. Findings by the team will provide the basis for determining which committees of the organization Korea will join first, officials said.

Korea will join OECD sectoral committees first, as a preparatory step to full membership by the mid-1990s, they said.

A group of 24 advanced nations such as the United States, Japan, Britain and France, OECD is a 30-year-old spinoff from the former Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) formed at the end of World War II.

When accepted as a full member, Korea will have wider and speedier access to global economic information and will use the information to conform domestic regulations and policies closer to international rules and trends, according to EPB officials.

Entry requires unanimous approval by member nations at the organization's executive council.

The forum will also serve as a negotiation table to prevent possible friction with major trade partners such as the United States and Japan and also to resolve any trade barriers against Korean exports, the officials said.

Once a member, Korea must comply with the OECD liberalization code on invisible transactions, meaning all non-commerce trade, and on capital movements.

Of 50 areas under invisible transactions, Korea is not open enough to join the OECD in 16, including transporation, insurance and finance, according to EPB. Korea also lags in 16 of the 41 areas on capital movement, mainly stock market investment and liberalization.

OECD, however, does not require immediate compliance with its regulations and grants all member nations a grace period, they said. Even some current full members have yet to comply fully with OECD standards.

Seoul applied for observer status at the organization's trade committee in October 1978 and joined the committee's shipbuilding sector last October.

Japan first suggested Korea's entry at a G-7 meeting in Venice in February 1987, and there were both official and unofficial recommendations for Korea to join the OECD, they said.

J.C. Paye, OECD's secretary-general, last October specifically mentioned Korea as the single candidate among Asia's newly industrializing economies.

Seoul To Offer Money to Kurdish Refugees

SK1304061491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0238 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 13 (YONHAP)—South Korea will send 300,000 U.S. dollars to Kurdish refugees, driven from Iraq, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

The offer was in compliance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 688, which calls for relief for Iraqi refugees, and with the appeals from Turkey and Iran neighboring Iraq, Ministry Spokesman Chong Ui-yong said.

The money will be given to the U.N. high commissioner for refugees and the U.N. disaster relief coordinator after details are discussed between the government and U.N. agencies, Chong said.

Korea gave the International Red Cross 100,000 dollars on March 14 to help refugees during the Gulf war.

Direct Telephone Circuits Opened to Romania

SK1204085691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0714 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Romania have agreed to open three direct telephone circuits by July, a Communications Ministry spokesman said Friday.

The agreement came during talks earlier in the day between Korean Communications Minister Song Onchong and his visiting Romanian counterpart, Andrei Chirica.

One direct circuit will be established in May. The two nations have international subscriber dialing (ISD) service by the way of third countries.

The two ministers also reached an accord to positively consider ways for Korean firms to participate in Romania's project to modernize its telecommunications network.

They shared opinions on boosting a joint venture between Goldstar Information and Communications Co. and Romania's Electro Magnetica Co. to jointly produce a Time Division Exchange (TDX), an advanced Korean switching system, and other communications devices.

Yi Chong-chan Viewed as Presidential Candidate

SK1704014591 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Apr 91 p 2

[By staff reporter Kim Sung-pok]

[Text] Rep. Yi Chong-chan tops various popularity polls and no doubt harbors political ambition.

With less than two years left on President No Tae-u's five-year single term, several leaders of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] are prudently jockeying for the DLP ticket to run in the 1993 presidential election. Yi, 55, is widely believed to be one of them.

Some, like DLP executive chairman Kim Yong-sam, hope that the nominee is handpicked by Chief Executive No through a compromise.

However, Yi strongly objects to it. "The presidential candidate should be chosen in a free and fair manner," the three-term legislator said yesterday in an interview with The Korea Times.

Asked which form of government he prefers, the current president-led formula or a parliamentary Cabinet system, he said, "There are merits and demerits in both systems. But the people now opt for the presidential government form. I respect their opinion."

A senior member belonging to No's faction, Minjonggye, Yi seemed to resent the recent demand by Kim Yong-sam's faction, Minjugye, that the DLP's presidential nominee be selected this summer, well ahead of the original schedule slated for May of 1992, when the party is to hold a national convention.

"I think the original political schedule should be honored. The nomination has to be made sometime after the next parliamentary elections (to be held probably in next April)," said the lawmaker elected from Chongno Chung-ku, Seoul, which is considered the "center of politics."

The reform-minded Assemblyman now belongs to a group proclaiming "new politics." The group, starting with eight lawmakers belonging to Minjonggye, is growing.

He revealed, "From this month on, our group plans to enroll members from other factions—(Minjugye led by Kim Yong-sam and Konghwagye headed by former prime minister Kim Chong-pil)."

By pursuing new politics, he noted, his group seeks to remedy what he called "political nihilism" in which the people have fallen.

"Politics has lost people's trust. A recent poll shows that no political party commands more than 10 percent of support. Sixty to 70 percent of the respondents say there are no parties which they would like to back up," he said.

Yi set up three goals to slough off old-time politics. He noted, "The most serious problem at this moment is that politics exists for specific people. Politics has to be conducted by the institution and not just by a handful of people. Our first goal is to institutionalize the politics so that it may not be swayed by personal whims."

He went on to say, "A series of events which have taken place since the merger of three parties (in February, 1990) can be called a power struggle. There was not a struggle with policies but dirty fights for positions within the party. Our second goal is to stop this unwholesome practice in politics," Yi stated.

"The third goal is to give the people vision. We should no longer be prisoners of the past," he added.

He struggled to foil legislation of "campus law" which was designed to put so-called student activists tinted with leftism into a camp for reindoctrination without a court trial during the reign of former president Chon Tu-hwan.

As the floor leader of Chon's Democratic Justice Party [DJP] then, he opposed the enactment of the controversial statute. The result of the dissent was that he was sacked as the whip and forced to the sideline.

"Then DJP chairman No Tae-u even supported my views. Although Chon dismissed me, he withdrew the law bill in the end."

Yi was born in Shanghai, China, of a renowned family of independence fighters against Japanese colonial rule. His grandfather is independence fighter Yi Hoe-yong, elder brother of Yi Si-yong, the first vice president of the Republic of Korea.

Rep. Yi had lived in the French district in Shanghai until 10 before his family returned home. He graduated from the 1960 class of the Korea Military Academy, five years after President No.

He served at the Central Intelligence Agency of Korea and then as a political counselor at the Korean Embassy in London between 1973 and 1976. He retired from the Army as a major.

Prosecution Probes Two Illegal Labor Groups

SK1204065391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0605 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP)—Prosecutors are investigating two unauthorized labor groups suspected of giving unions advice on wage negotiations, prosecution sources said Friday.

The prosecution was told that the National Alliance of Trade Unions and the Alliance of Trade Unions in major companies sent guidelines on this year's wage negotiations to affiliated unions across the country, and if the charges are substantiated the prosecution will arrest the leaders of the organizations, the sources said.

The two groups instructed unions allied with them to start wage negotiations April 20 and go on strike May 9, they said.

The two organizations are leading a movement for unions all over the country to open joint wage negotiations this spring, instead of separate negotiations as in the past, they said.

The prosecution will arrest workers who are fired in case they make trouble at their former companies. [sentence as received]

The prosecutor-general's office has instructed prosecutors to strongly counter illegal acts, warning that collective acts are likely to become fierce on campuses and in factories.

Farmers Urged To Grow Export-Promising Crops

SK1704031691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0255 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—A report Wednesday by the state-run Korea Trade Promotion Corp. [KOTRA] advised South Korean farmers to grow export-promising crops and called for structural adjustment of Korean agriculture to cope with U.S. pressure and start exports to the U.S. market.

The report urged farmers to quickly select and foster export-promising farm products and complete restructuring to overcome the American barrier, which it said was a prerequisite to cultivating overseas farm markets.

The United States imports many farm products, it said.

"Mushroom, pear, chestnut, tangerine and persimmon, which the United States imports from Southeast Asia, have great potential for export if we have the international competition capability for those items," the report said.

"It is necessary to fully prepare for advancing into the U.S. market since the U.S. authorities attach thorny regulations and conditions to import of farm products," it said.

It also called for an export plantation, collection and analysis of U.S. market information, more energetic pioneering of the U.S. market, trade diplomacy to cope with restrictions on farm imports and efforts by farmers to sell more of their products on the U.S. market.

The United States imported 20.2 billion U.S. dollars of agricultural items last year, 22.4 billion dollars in 1989, 22.6 billion dollars in 1988 and 22 billion dollars in 1987.

People Polled on Agricultural Liberalization

SK1704091091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0854 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—Koreans are in virtually total agreement that the domestic agricultural market must be protected even at the cost of competitiveness, according to a Gallup Korea Poll conducted for the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF).

Poll results released Wednesday show 96.7 percent of the 701 adults questioned want to protect Korean farmers from imports and over 60 percent would like agricultural leaders to have a bigger political say and serve on local councils.

Asked about opening Korea's farm market, an overwhelming 67.9 percent said farmers must be protected even if they may lose international competitiveness and another 28.8 percent said Korean farmers should be protected at least to some extent.

Liberalization of agriculture, the lynchpin of the Uruguay Round trade talks, is a major issue for Korea, which is ready to compromise in other sectors to obtain better terms in this area.

The pollees were also supportive of NACF members running for seats on local councils, with 35.5 percent saying they were completely for it and 30.2 percent relatively supportive.

Only 12.7 percent opposed. No margin of error was given.

Public support for NACF candidates may well be reflected in elections for big-city and provincial administrations planned for June, giving them a say in running the autonomous governments.

Asked what they believed NACF's chief aims should be, 46.1 percent said a production and sales support network, 26 percent said NACF should concentrate on supplying farm machinery, 13.6 percent named easier loans and 12.3 percent said supply of daily necessities.

Hanyang Senior Elected Chondaehyop Chairman

SK1204012391 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] Chonhaehyop, the nation's largest student activists' group, yesterday picked Kim Chong-sik, 23, a senior of Hanyang University, as new chairman of the group.

In a general meeting held at Yonsei University, representatives of Chondaehyop, the National Council for Student Representatives, also picked new staff members and discussed its activities for this year.

On Wednesday night, some 1,500 students, members of the group, held a festival at Yonsei to commemorate the fifth Chonhaehyop general meeting.

Minister Asks Colleges To 'Uproot Activism'

SK1704022091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0134 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—Education Minister Yun Hyong-sop asked heads of colleges and universities Tuesday to prevent their campuses from turning into forums for political propaganda and anti-government struggles.

Meeting with college deans and university presidents from across the country, Yun predicted that the National Alliance of Democratic Students (Chondaehyop), a radical student body, would draw activist students into anti-government struggles timed with local elections in June.

"All institutes of higher learning should uproot activism, which disrupts the academic atmosphere of campuses. Professors should thoroughly check attendance at classes," Yun said amid nasty disturbances in some campuses.

Each school should resolve internal problems that might develop into off-campus disturbances and should not allow students to meddle in administrative affairs, he said.

"In order to restore the authority of professors and school administrators, students should be banned from intervening in the election of deans and presidents, appointment of professors, and process of computing tuition fees. Professors should take stern action against any acts that challenge their authority," the minister said.

Yun said 16,000 freshmen openings would be added to colleges of natural science and engineering from 1992-94 to meet the soaring demand at industrial firms.

Private schools will be given state funding if they offer courses in ultra-modern science and enrollment quotas will be frozen in all departments except those specializing in up-to-date industrial science. Schools that have fewer than 60 percent of the professors they need will not be allowed to increase their freshman quota.

A recent revision to the college entrance system, effective in 1994, was designed to maximize the autonomy of each institute and moves by some schools to adopt a uniform method of freshman screening went against the purpose of revision, he said.

Officials at top-notch private universities in Seoul and 13 state-run universities have reportedly held discussions on setting a common entry exam that combines marks from the high school record of an applicant with a scholastic aptitude test and university entrance test.

Reflecting high school records is compulsory, but it is up to each institute how the three sets of marks are combined.

People See Localism as Serious National Problem

SK1704004791 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] Nearly 90 percent of people see localism or regional sentiments as one of the most series problems facing the nation.

A survey of 1,500 people across the nation showed that 62.6 percent of those interviewed said they have been "discriminated" against due to their native hometowns.

According to the survey conducted by Korea Gallup, 59.4 percent of those surveyed saw localism posing a "very serious" problem while 27.8 percent considered it a "serious" problem.

The survey, which was made at the request of the National Movement to Overcome Localism, also said that as many as 80.8 percent of natives of southwestern Cholla provinces said they feel a great sense of localism, while 47.7 percent of rival southeastern Kyongsang provinces felt the same.

One-third (33.3 percent) of those questioned responded 'yes' to the question of whether the matter of provincial alienation has been eased the past few years.

Of those polled, 36.5 percent, however, said that the local sentiments have been eased during the past years, while 29.8 percent said they saw no improvement.

About 73 percent of people surveyed said they see disparity in character in accordance with their native provinces.

According to the survey, the localism adversely affected the nation by fostering social conflicts and disintegration (20.3 percent).

Among other effects of localism on the nation are imbalance of regional development (9.4 percent), instable politics (16.4 percent), deepened distrust (9.3 percent) and disproportionate elections of government officials (8.5 percent).

More than 26 percent of respondents from Cholla provinces pointed out the disproportionate regional development as one of the most serious effects of localism, reflecting their deep sense of economic isolation.

Nearly 20 percent of the surveyed Cholla Province natives said they felt they were discriminated against in seeking jobs and personnel affairs, the survey showed.

In particular, more than 16 percent of the respondents from Chungchong and Kangwon Provinces referred to the disproportionate elections of lawmakers and other elective posts as the major adverse effects of localism, while the nationwide rate remains a mere 8.5 percent.

The poll also showed that the two provinces, widely thought to have less of a sense of localism than Kyongsang and Cholla Provinces, became more aware of localism since the presidential and parliamentary elections in 1987 and 1988 respectively, when localism reached its climax.

'Analysis' on Central Bank's Economic Forecast

SK1704085191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0523 GMT 17 Apr 91

["News Analysis" by Kim Tae-sik: "Bank Urges Government To Curb Inflation, Tighten Money Supply"—YONHAP headline]

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—The Bank of Korea (BOK), South Korea's central bank, has upped its forecast of economic growth this year to 8.9 percent and called on the government to arrest inflation and control the money supply.

The rate is a bit lower than last year's 9 percent but much higher than the bank's projection of 7.3 percent at the end of 1990 and the potential growth rate of 8 percent to 8.5 percent.

The potential growth rate is an optimum growth rate that a nation can accomplish by utilizing its labor forces and resources fully, and actual growth surpassing the potential growth rate is classified as overheating of the economy.

A high growth rate for a second consecutive year would mean the economy is overheated, an economist said.

This means more pump-priming efforts are unnecessary.

What matters is inflation [word indistinct] protected consumer prices would rise 9.6 percent this year, on top of 9.4 percent last year.

The projection may be too optimistic given the current social and economic situation.

BOK's inflation rate is based on the assumption that prices of agricultural products stabilize, wage hikes are below 10 percent and the import price of crude oil remains at 18 dollars a barrel.

Pegging wage hikes below 10 percent will not be easy and there is no guarantee that agricultural prices will not fluctuate like last year. There is also a possibility oil prices will go up.

Consumer prices rose 4.9 percent in the first quarter, surpassing half the rate projected for all 12 months.

Hikes in the agricultural, livestock and fisheries and service sectors led the overall price rises.

BOK said hikes in industrial products are likely to be steeper than in 1990 and it fears price uneasiness deepening for the rest of the year. The government's economic priority thus should be price stability and control of total demand rather than pump-priming, it said.

The central bank advised that this year's total money supply, which includes currency in circulation plus savings at banks, be pegged at 17 percent growth, the lower limit of the government's original goal of 17-19 percent.

Although it is unusual that the central bank openly urge the government to tighten monetary policy, it is doubtful tightening can be realized due to the liquidity conditions of businesses and the prolonged stock market slump.

It is evident the Korean economy has escaped the stagnation of 1989 and entered a recovery, with exports reviving and high GNP growth, but high inflation and high growth are also expected.

* Demand for Supercomputers Increasing 'Fast'

912C0171A Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 21 Feb 91 p 17

[Article by reporter Min Ho-ki]

[Text] Chungang University has become the first university in the nation to import and set up a supercomputer.

Aimed at improving the research and development capacity in supercomputing and at cultivating the supercomputer specialists, Chungang University has decided to establish a supercomputer research center and has imported an IBM 3090VF supercomputer.

Thus, there are now five different organizations in the country that have set up mainframe-class supercomputers, and they are: System Engineering Research Institute (SERI), Kia Motors, Electronics and Communications Research Institute (ETRI), Hyundai Motors, and Chungang University.

In terms of models, SERI has a Cray 2S, which is a top-of-the-line model, Kia Motors has a Cray Y-MP, and ETRI, Hyundai Motors and Chungang University have an IBM 3090VF.

It has been reported that the supercomputer that Chungang University has recently imported is Model 150J of the IBM 3090VF series, which costs about three million dollars.

Its price and processing speed are only one-tenth of the SERI's Cray 2S, hence a low-end model in the supercomputer class. However, it is 256 times faster than the general-purpose mainframe computer IBM 3090 series.

Professor Yi Kyong-hwan (Computer Science Department), director of Chungang University's Data Processing Center, pointed out supercomputers are characterized by the fact that "the parallel processing method enables a fast execution of commands." He added, "Now that Chungang University has imported a supercomputer, we can conduct research in supercomputer applications and will be able to cultivate top-flight specialists in supercomputer software."

Professor Yi mentioned the following examples of supercomputer applications: study of the movement of neutrons during the storage of nuclear waste; a simulated study of shocks in automobile collisions; a study in the distribution of fluids and pressure within engines; oil exploration; semiconductor circuit design; and a simulated combat based on various deployments of military force and fire power.

Chungang University is presently building an independent Supercomputer Research Institute and is planning to launch a full-scale education and research project upon completion of its construction in May.

In particular, the school plans to educate the industrial and research manpower upon establishment of a program that will enable top-flight graduates of computer-related subjects to become supercomputer software specialists.

In general, supercomputers are characterized by a high-speed operation through a parallel processing method, a high-capacity main memory, and a high-speed storage system.

Today, a top-of-the-line supercomputer model can execute two billion instructions per second (two giga-FLOPS) and has over two gigabytes of main memory (1GB equals 1 billion bytes). Its price ranges up to 30 million dollars.

Supercomputer makers include Cray, IBM and ETA in the United States, and NEC, Fujitsu and Hitachi in Japan.

Thus far, the world market of supercomputers has been dominated by American companies, such as Cray, but Japanese companies, such as NEC, have recently risen fast to the surface and are challenging to take the leadership.

Supercomputers have a wide range of applications from basic sciences—such as nuclear power, meteorology, structural analysis, chemistry, and physics—to industrial areas—such as petroleum exploration, aeronautics and space, semiconductor design, cancer research, and aircraft and automobile design.

Thus, demand is increasing fast not only at the government-sponsored research institutions but also in the private industries, such as the automobile industry, semiconductor industry and petrochemical industry.

In addition to Kia Motors and Hyundai Motors, the demand is expected to increase among the high-tech companies. For example, Samsung Group and Daewoo Group are studying the possibility of importing supercomputers.

However, several problems have been pointed out, such as: the lack of ability to develop and use supercomputer application programs and insufficient number of supercomputer specialists.

Although the supercomputer owner SERI has been working hard to cultivate supercomputer specialists so far, there have been limitations in educating and providing the supercomputer facility to college students and computer specialists in general industries.

Thus, considering that the recent establishment of the Supercomputer Research Institute at Chungang University will enable the use of supercomputers at the college level as well as enable the practitioners in the industries to learn about supercomputers, such an establishment is expected to improve our capacity in the research, development and application of supercomputing.

On the other hand, as part of the events for celebrating the opening of the Supercomputer Research Institute, Chungang University and Korea IBM will jointly hold an "International Workshop on Supercomputing" at the Data Processing Center of Chungang University on February 21-22.

WHO-Banned Toxic Chemicals Said Widely Used

SK1704010391 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] About 30 toxic farm chemicals banned by the World Health Organization (WHO) have been widely used across the nation, polluting soil and water, the Citizens' Alliance for Consumer Protection said yesterday.

The chemicals, most of them pesticides, have caused potential hazards to the public health as some of them are supposed to cause cancer or accumulating in the human body.

In particular, a large amount of such chemicals have been recently used by an increasingly number of golf courses, aggravating water pollution.

WHO has classified 82 farm chemicals as "extremely or highly" hazardous. Of them, 30 chemicals are in use in the nation, the consumer body said.

Of the 30 chemicals, Aldicarb, Captafol, Disulfoton and another six banned pesticides are classified as extremely hazardous and 21 others are regarded as highly hazardous.

The nine farm chemicals are currently banned in advanced countries such as the United States, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Canada while a few other countries strictly regulate the production and sale of such chemicals.

The International organization of Consumer Unions (IOCU) has launched a campaign to ban Paraquat, a widely used chemical in Korea, the consumer body said.

The pesticide, marketed under the Gramoxone brand name, poses a mounting possibility of having a lethal impact on the human body, it added.

The production volume of the banned chemicals amounted to 3,723 tons in Korea in 1989, accounting for 16 percent of the total pesticide production volume of 23,317 tons.

Also noteworthy is that the production volume of the highly toxic chemicals has increased year by year, the consumer body contended.

Although the production volume of pesticides increased by 31 percent for the four years from 1985, that of the extremely hazardous pesticides jumped by 88 percent and that of the highly hazardous pesticides rose by 52 percent.

The Citizens' Alliance called on authorities to ban the production and use of toxic chemicals which have the potential to damage the environment.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Defense Minister To Discuss Ties With Australia

BK1204151891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0822 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 12 (AFP)—Defence Minister Najib Tun Razak said Friday he would discuss Malaysia's strained ties with Australia at a Five Powers Defence Arrangement (FPDA) ministerial meeting here April 28.

Mr. Najib told reporters that the tension between Malaysia and Australia would not affect upcoming defence exercises by the FPDA, which groups Australia, Britain, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore.

The exercises are a multilateral arrangement set up in 1971 to provide a defence cover for Malaysia and Singapore after Britain withdrew its troops east of the Suez Canal.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad acknowledged Thursday for the first time that bilateral relations had deteriorated, accusing Australia of being unfriendly and of undermining his country's image in a bid to discourage investment there.

Dr. Mahathir said an Australian film series sought to tarnish Malaysia's image while other films appeared aimed at discouraging investment.

Diplomats said Malaysia last year criticised "Embassy," an Australian television series based on a fictional Southeast Asian nation.

Some Malaysian officials said privately that the series was a thinly veiled attempt to portray Malaysia in bad light, and was insulting to Islam, the country's official religion.

Malaysia ordered all non-essential cooperation projects with Australia suspended in October and told officials not to extend invitations to or accept invitations from Canberra for social or other engagements, sources here said.

THE BUSINESS TIMES newspaper said Friday that "Canberra cannot pretend that it cannot do anything about the 'smear Malaysia' tendencies in the Australian media and in other fields."

Acknowledging that Australia has a free press, the paper said the government should still try to "repair the damage by using the media to instill among Australians the need to know their neighbours better—through facts, not conjectures."

"Malaysia and the rest of Asia can afford to write off Australia in economic and political terms. Can Australia afford to be so neglected?" the daily asked.

Mahathir on Australian Ties, Import Restriction

BK1304100891 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0705 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 13 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Saturday he has come to understand that Australia will restrict the import of batteries from Malaysia on the excuse that they are produced with government subsidy.

He said he was not clear as to what Australia meant by this. However, he added, Malaysia would not retaliate by restricting imports from Australia.

"We will not impose restrictions on anything .... we believe in free trade," he told reporters during a visit to his parliamentary constituency in the northwestern Kedah state.

Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia imported many goods from Australia, such as meat, milk, sugar and flour but Malaysia's products did not have a good market there.

Dr. Mahathir said this when asked to comment on the strained relationship between Malaysia and Australia.

Asked whether Malaysia would resort to boycottng Australian goods under a policy similar to the "buy British last" policy used against Britain at one time, the prime minister said: "We have not reached that stage yet."

He said the relationship between Malaysia and Australia at this stage could be considered as "proper" or "in accordance with procedure and not more than that ... not that between close friends."

Asked whether the strain in the relationship occurred under the present Prime Minister (Bob Hawke), Dr. Mahathir said: "I do not want to blame any government or prime minister."

He added that when Malaysia acted against drug traffickers, it was accused of being barbaric and uncivilised. Similarly, when it acted to safeguard security in 1987, it was accused of being undemocratic.

"All these accusations came from Australia. Other countries did not make such accusations but Australia, it seems, feels that it is the judge in this region. And it must determine the standard that must be adhered to," he said.

Asked his opinion of why Australia seemed to be unhappy with Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir said: "I believe that this is a feeling that they are superior to us. They consider themselves a civilised people while we are developing and lagging behind."

He also said that there was the feeling that because this country has Muslims it is looked upon as an enemy. The country was portrayed as an Islamic country that was backward and unimportant.

Asked about the support of Australia and New Zealand for the proposed East Asia Economic Group (EAEG), he said the grouping did not need their backing.

Asked whether New Zealand wanted to join the grouping, he said New Zealand did not come under the classification of an East Asian country but, if other East Asian countries wanted to accept New Zealand as a member, the grouping was willing to do so.

Minister on Japan, ROK View of EAEG Idea

BK1304101891 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0713 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 13 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The private sectors in Japan and South Korea have seen the positive effects of the setting up of the proposed East Asian Economic Group (EAEG), International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz said.

They understood the EAEG concept and wanted to know the follow-up measures to be taken by Malaysia, which proposed the grouping, after it had been discussed at the ASEAN Senior officials meeting in May, said the minister who just returned from a mission to explain the EAEG to the two countries.

She said her visit was not to lobby for Japan and South Korea's support for the proposal but to explain about it following various interpretations of the grouping to the extent that some people assumed that Malaysia had failed to gain the support of countries outside ASEAN.

"Japan and South Korea have now got a clear picture that the EAEG proposal is not to have an economic and trading block but a loose forum without a permanent structure, through which discussions of mutual interest can be held," she said.

The private sectors of the two countries had seen that they would benefit directly when countries in this region got to widen trade through the EAEG forum, she added.

Rafidah said one of the questions raised in Japan was the U.S. reaction to the proposal.

"I explained to them that our proposal will not in any way bring negative effects to countries outside this region.

What we want is to discuss mutual and long-term issues just like America has set up a trade cooperation with Canada and Mexico, "she added.

She dismissed fears that the EAEG would adversely affect the role of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Kelantan Chinese Representation in Senate Urged

BK1504105191 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 14 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Kota Baru, Sat.—The State MCA [Malaysian Chinese Association] has urged its national leadership to formally request the Federal Government to appoint a Kelantan Chinese to the Dewan Negara [Senate].

State liaison committee chairman Datuk Wong Chor Wah said the appointment of a Senator from Kelantan was necessary in view of the current political situation in Kelantan.

"After the last general election, we lost our solitary seat in the Padang Garong constituency and have no voice at all in State affairs.

"A Senator from the Chinese community would ensure we are represented at least at the Federal level," he told reporters at a Press conference here today.

Datuk Wong said a formal request was made to party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik since 1989 and more recently after the general election, but the State Liaison committee did not receive any reply.

He said the appointment of a Kelantan Chinese to the Dewan Negara was not something new as it was practised after Independence but stopped in the 1970s.

"The then Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman had agreed to the appointment of a Senator from the Kelantan Chinese as he realised it would help ensure Chinese representation at the Federal level," Datuk Wong added.

He said two Kelantan MCA leaders had been appointed to the Dewan Negara during post-Merdeka years. They were Datuk Foo Sin Moy and Datuk Dr Wee Khoon Hock.

The Chinese population in Kelantan is between 60,000 and 70,000 of which about 70 per cent are staying in Kota Baru while the rest are scattered in the Kuala Krai and Gua Musang districts.

Kedah Chief Dissident Plans To Rejoin UMNO

BK1104114891 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 10 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Alor Star, Tues.—Kedah Semangat 46 [Spirit of 46 Party—Dissident Faction of the United Malays National Organization or UMNO] chairman Datuk Zainal Abidin Johari officially announced his resignation from the party today, and immediately advised party president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and his supporters to follow suit and return to UMNO.

Datuk Zainal Abidin said he would be applying to join the Kampung Berjaya or Sik branch soon.

Announcing his resignation at a Press conference here, Datuk Zainal said he would submit his application form to Menteri Besar [chief minister] Datuk Seri Haji Osman Aroff when the latter returned from performing the umrah [minor pilgrimage] next week.

His resignation was effective from March 28, the day he submitted his resignation letter to the Semangat 46 headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

According to him, between 5,000 and 6,000 Semangat members in Sik alone and several thousands more in other districts would quit the party soon.

Datuk Zainal Abidin cited several reasons for his decision to quit the party, the main one being the rejection of the party by voters at the last general election.

He said Semangat 46 was riddled with serious problems which the top leadership had not addressed.

"There are many serious problems such as the conflict in Kelantan, the leadership crisis in Kedah, the conflict between former Semangat 46 leader Marina Yusof and another leader which led Marina to resign, and the problems between Engku Mohasein and Tengku Paduka Raja in Terengganu which the top leadership merely brushed aside," he said.

He said he did not know what the Semangat 46 top leadership regarded as important as they seemed to consider these problems trivial.

In Kuala Terengganu, 43 Semangat 46 youth leaders and members from five branches in Bukit Bading, Hulu Terengganu, resigned from the party yesterday.

They were led by branch co-ordinating vice leader Razali Mamat and two branch leaders, Kamaruddin Deraman who was head of the Semangat 46 youth northern branch and Abdul Aziz Embong, head of the southern branch and branch co-ordinating committee member Mohd Nasir Ubaidillah.

Also with the group was a committee member of the party's Hulu Terengganu division Rosdiah Ubaidillah.

They later handed their application forms to join UMNO to Hulu Terengganu UMNO division chief Datuk Haji Ahmad Sidi Ismail.

Encik Razali said Semangat 46 had deviated far from its original struggle.

Government Urged To Undertake Kelantan Projects

BK1504121091 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 14 Apr 91 p 4

[Text] Kota Baharu, Sat.—Semangat 46 [Spirit of 46 Party, a dissident faction of the United Malays National Organization] President Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah has expressed the hope that the federal government would implement development programmes for the people of Kelantan.

Failing in this aspect would mean that the government had failed to bring development to one million Malays due to "political rivalry," he claimed.

He told newsmen at a breaking of the fast at his residence here yesterday that all state governments could not develop their own states without federal government assistance.

Tengku Razaleigh brushed aside claims that he had requested the PAS [Pan Malaysian Islamic Party] government here not to support any federal government project.

He said he had advised Menteri Besar [Chief Minister] Haji Nik Aziz Nik Mat to accept all development projects geared at helping the people but implemented with the knowledge of the state government so that there could be cooperation between the two governments.

The proposed amendments are scheduled to be tabled in the State Legislative Assembly on April 23.

Singapore

Malaysian Minister Gives News Conference 13 Apr

BK1304104491 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0908 GMT 13 Apr 91

[By Syed Imran Alsagoff]

[Text] Singapore, Apr 13 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said ASEAN foreign ministers could discuss the proposed East Asia Economic Group (EAEG) at their forthcoming meeting in Kuala Lumpur if agreed to by all ASEAN countries.

He said ASEAN leaders were in agreement with the EAEG concept but they wanted the details to be discussed at the officials level.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore.

Speaking at a press conference here Saturday, Abdullah said that at the moment the officials were looking into it.

Abdullah, who is chairman of the ASEAN standing committee, will chair the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in July. He took the opportunity to brief Singapore leaders on the matter.

"We expect to have the EAEG discussed at the foreign ministers meeting. We hope to achieve some results in Kuala Lumpur," he said when asked whether the proposal would be on the agenda.

Abdullah said he discussed the proposal, mooted by Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, with Singapore leaders. He said Malaysia was happy that Singapore "is fully with us" on the EAEG proposal.

Abdullah, who arrived here Friday for a two-day official visit, had earlier called on Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, his deputy Brigadier-General (reserve) Lee Hsien Loong and Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng. Friday, he held informal discussions with Deputy Prime Minister Ong Teng Cheong.

"Singapore not only supports the proposal but is also promoting the idea in the East Asian region, " he said.

He said that since the EAEG "is going to be an ASEAN program and we are going to work together, we must develop an understanding on how to approach it".

Abdullah said the EAEG was not meant to be a "confrontational tool" against others. It is not a trade or economic bloc against any country.

He also said that Japan and South Korea did not reject the proposal but wanted ASEAN to agree to it first.

"International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz is working hard to explain the concept to East Asian leaders," he said.

When asked to comment on Manila's proposal to float a bond issue to ease its foreign debt problem, Abdullah said the matter has to be studied first and it must not have anything to do with the U.S. bases there.

Yesterday, Goh said in Manila that Singapore will give more than token support to the proposal if it is backed bq other ASEAN countries, but added that Manila should not use it to get its neighbours to bear the cost of maintaining U.S. bases in the Philippines.

Philippine officials have suggested that Manila float a U.S.$400 million bond issue to which Singapore and other countries enjoying the benefits of U.S. military presence in the region should subscribe.

On relations with Singapore, Abdullah said that being good neighbours, both countries could work and cooperate for mutual benefit.

He wanted officials from both countries to have regular contact as "there is much to be achieved if we resort to informality".

"Of course, now and then we have poblems, even a husband and wife sleeping on the same bed have problems ... sometimes.

"Being good neighbours who understand each other, it helps us to overcome such problems ..."

On the growth triangle, Abdullah said it would bring closer the three partners—the southern Malaysian state of Johor, Singapore and the Riau Islands—and it would become a project of common interest.

ASEAN Dec Summit Postponed to 1992

BK1304150891 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1430 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, summit scheduled to be held in Singapore in December has been postponed to early 1992.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he was informed of the proposed change by his Singapore counterpart Mr. Wong Kan Seng on whom he paid a courtesy call this morning.

Datuk Abdullah arrived in Singapore on Friday for a two-day official goodwill visit since becoming foreign minister last month.

During his meeting with Mr. Wong, the two leaders discussed the forthcoming ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur. Among other things to be discussed would be the proposed East Asia Economic Group, EAEG.

More on Tentative ASEAN Summit

BK1504123091 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 15 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] The next ASEAN summit is likely to be held here in January or February, Foreign Affairs Minister Wong Kan Seng said yesterday. But this, he said, depended on whether the date was convenient to the various heads of government.

Speaking to reporters after a ministerial walkabout in Toa Payoh GRC [Group Representation Constituency], he added that he was awaiting their replies before confirming the date.

Mr. Wong was commenting on a remark made by Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Badawi, who said on Saturday at the end of a two-day visit that the summit would be held early next year rather than later this year, at the request of the Singapore Government.

One possible subject on the summit's agenda is the proposed East Asian Economic Grouping linking ASEAN and East Asian countries like Japan, South Korea, and possibly China to counter the rise of trade blocs in Europe and North America.

Goh Chok Tong on Leadership Succession Plan

BK1604094891 Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 14 Apr 91 p 1

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong declared last night that he is looking for the right people to succeed his team as able ministers and Members of Parliament in the new century.

With about 16 People's Action Party MPs likely to step down at each general election, he urged suitable men and women to be prepared to enter politics if they were called upon to serve the country.

"My immediate task is to look for a few more potential ministers. If they are stronger and brighter than my present ministers, so much the better he said.

Addressing 600 professionals and businessmen at a dinner given in his honour by 14 Rotary Clubs, he said that he was working towards his political retirement and embarking on the task of renewing Singapore's leadership immediately.

He urged his his rapt audience to do the nation a favour by sending him the names of potential leaders. He welcomed the names of women too, saying they were underrepresented in Parliament.

"It may seem strange that I should be working for my own politial retirement barely five months on the job.

"But time passes all too quickly. I know. My last 14 years just disappeared. I am going on to 50. For the sake of continuity, it is my duty to plan for self-renewal right away," he said in a candid 40-minute address, peppered with personal anecdotes.

While his present team, a number of whom were over 50 years old, would be able to see the decade out, it was essential to prepare a successor team with the experience and skills to take over in the next century, he said.

"I do not like to discuss my own strengths. But I will say this tonight. I am not afriad of talent or that someone can do my job better than I. Indeed, my duty is to seek out these talents and get them to serve Singapore," he said, to applause.

He also gave the Rotarians gathered at the Mandarin Hotel some insights into the workings of his Cabinet and the importance of teamwork and selflessness. [passage omitted]

Officers To Join UN Peacekeeping Force in Gulf

BK1404143691 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Singapore has decided to send 10 SAF [Singapore Armed Forces] officers to the United Nations peacekeeping force in the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait. The officers—six majors and four captains—will be leaving in two weeks to police the zone. They will return when the task is completed.

Foreign Minister Mr. Wong Kan Seng said the UN secretary general had asked for Singapore's participation in February this year. Mr. Wong said two other ASEAN countries—Malaysia and Indonesia—had also been invited to take part in the peacekeeping force.

Cambodia

Rebels Blame U.S. for Worsening of Hunger

BK1604110491 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Non-communist guerrillas running fledgling administrations in parts of rural Cambodia blame cuts in US aid for spreading hunger among thousands of civilians under their control.

Guerrilla spokesmen told REUTER yesterday that the administration of President George Bush, facing congressional opposition over its Cambodia policy, had this year frozen millions of dollars of non- military aid earmarked for two groups contending for influence with the Phnom Penh government and the communist Khmer Rouge.

The freeze coincided with a food shortage caused by drought and increased fighting that has sent tens of thousands of Cambodians fleeing to non-communist zones in search of food and water, guerrillas said.

"With the suspension of assistance from the United States to buy rice and other necessities we are in a very difficult situation," said Ieng Mouly, secretary general of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF).

Opponents of US aid for the KPNLF and supporters of exiled Prince Norodom Sihanouk have said the two groups have been fighting alongside the Khmer Rouge, radical Maoists also waging a guerrilla war against Phnom Penh.

The Khmer Rouge were ousted from power by Vietnam in 1978-9 after four years in power when one million Cambodians died.

Officials from both noncommunist groups deny any coordinated policy of cooperation. Congressmen are meeting in Washington to consider the future of aid to the two factions.

"We feel that we are the legitimate beneficiaries of US assistance if the assistance is aimed at promoting democray in Cambodia," Ieng Mouly said in a telephone interview.

The two groups receive arms from China and non-military aid from Washington. In the past year they have followed US advice in concentrating on winning hearts and minds by setting up civilian administrations in areas under their control.

Ek Sereywath, spokesman for the Sihanoukists, said none of the promised $10 million had reached his group since January. Another Sihanoukist official who had just returned from Cambodia said that in one district alone 6,000 civilians were without rice or water.

"They are digging in the earth for lizards," he said.

Diplomats and aid officials said the food shortage was caused by late rains last year. The Sihanoukist official said his soldiers had been ordered to help villagers plant rice this month to prevent a cycle of hunger.

One relief official in the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet said there had been 6,000 new arrivals at UN-assisted refugee camps in March. Another 5,600 had fled to KPNLF controlled areas at Thmar Puok and Banteay Chhmar, Ieng Mouly said. He added that his officials had enough suppies only for the next month.

"The situation is serious," the relief worker said.

A Western diplomat said that although the problem was acute, guerrillas were now emphasising the risk of famine in the hope of derailing efforts in Washington to cut aid. Diplomats and journalists have in recent weeks been ferried into the area to see the situation first hand.

"The problem is these (non-communist zones) have become a magnet for villagers fleeing a host of problems—hunger, fighting, conscription, the works," the diplomat said.

Non-communist officials said a cut in US aid would send villagers into the arms of the Khmer Rouge and increase their factions' reliance on China, sole provider of the Khmer Rouge and fervent opponent of Vietnam.

"We are afraid that if we cannot feed them they will go to the Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge are already launching a campaign to woo the people away from us," said Ek Sereywath.

The Khmer Rouge earlier this month called on the world community to ignore pleas for aid by the Phnom Penh government. Phnom Penh earlier called for fertiliser and rice-seedlings to help combat the effects of last year's poor harvest.

Rules on Anniversary of Victory Over U.S. Issued

BK1604121391 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Directive of the Central Propaganda and Education Commission on organizing the commemoration of the

16th anniversary of the 17 April 1975 victory over the U.S. imperialists and their lackey authorities; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] This year our Cambodian people are very happy to organize the commemoration the 16th anniversary of the day of victory over the U.S. imperialists and their lackey authorities, 17 April 1975-17 April 1991, along with the celebration of the traditional New Year at a time when the Cambodian revolution is capable of fully assuming every task and able to surmount all manner of difficulties and obstacles, effectively defending the social gains.

Although it should modify its tactics to lead the country in keeping with the volatile situation, our party has firmly grasped the goal of the struggle and is strategically resolved to tightly hold the banner of all-around leadership works, marshalling the united forces of the entire nation to overcome difficulties in every situation.

In order to make the 16th anniversary of the day of victory over the U.S. imperialists and their lackey authorities a success, the Central Propaganda and Education Commission wishes to give the following advice:

I. Propaganda requirements and significance:

1. Clearly establish that the victory on 17 April 1975 was the outcome of the protracted struggle waged by our Armed Forces and people and the fruit of the bond of solidarity among the three Indochinese states, which jointly fought to defeat the U.S. imperialists, ringleader of world imperialism.

2. Strongly expose and condemn the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan clique, which betrayed the people and nation and plundered the gains of the 17 April victory to cause the great genocidal disaster and immense destruction to the nation and people. Over the past 12 years, the genocidal alliance has continued to plot, combine their forces, and divide the territory for the purpose of carrying on destructive activities against our Cambodia and the people's peaceful lives and sabotaging the firm solidarity of the three countries in Indochina.

3. Motivate the entire party, Armed Forces, and people to uphold their high sense of revolutionary vigilance with their all-out physical and moral strength so they can clearly see through all manner of stratagems concocted by the enemies, specifically the enemy maneuvers on a political settlement of the Cambodian problem in this new stage of the game; take initiative to effectively implement all revolutionary tasks and movement. It is imperative to stimulate the mass movement to become actively involved in campaigns launched by the party and state, especially to maintain peace and order, to fight the enemies, to promote the proselytization movement, to crack down on negative phenomena, to strengthen working disciplines, to effect savings to accumulate the state budget, to improve the living conditions of the combatants and people, and to carry on the diplomatic struggle. Moreover, the movement to produce and garner dry-season rice, make preparations for the coming rainy season, sell paddy to the state, and build up strong localities should be continued with the intent of thwarting once and for all the maneuver to return the genocidal regime to Cambodia.

4. Continue to strengthen and develop the spirit of national and international solidarity, in particular solidarity with Vietnam, Laos, the Soviet Union, as well as all the fraternal countries worldwide. The spirit of self-reliance should also be upheld with a view to zealously overcoming all kinds of difficulties to bring the present tasks to success.

II. Forms and measures to be implemented:

1. At the central level, the committee in charge of organizing national and international festivities of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense [KUFNCD] National Council should cooperate with the Ministry of National Defense and Phnom Penh to organize the celebration of the 16th anniversary of the 17 April victory. Before holding the meeting, a delegation made up of the party-state representatives and those from mass organizations and Phnom Penh, as well as students and pupils should lay wreaths at the war memorial to pay tribute to the souls of the fallen Cambodian and Vietnamese combatants. A speech to be delivered at the meeting will be prepared by the KUFNCD.

To conclude the meeting, an entertainment program consisting of traditional songs whose themes evoke the struggle against the U.S. imperialists as well as the past and new criminal activities committed by the genocidal alliance will be provided.

In provinces and cities, the provincial and municipal fronts should organize the meeting as well. The essence of the meeting is to stress the significance of the 17 April victory and that of the current situation and the Cambodian revolution's present tasks according to the concrete situation in each locality and based on the resolutions adopted at the party Central Committee's 12th session and the National Assembly's extraordinary session. The meeting should emphasize the present tasks that each locality should implement as well.

It is also imperative to motivate the emulation movement in all fields. This is to achieve more new successes, contributing to welcoming the traditional New Year, the 16th anniversary of the 17 April victory, the 40th anniversary of the solidarity between the Army and people, and the founding anniversary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party. It is essential to underline the importance of the national and internatioanal solidarities, especially the significance of the solidarity and cooperation among the three Indochinese countries and to promote the revolutionary movement at grass-roots localities to succeed and to attain more achievements. At this point in time, attention should be intensified to fighting the enemies, stimulating the proselytization movement, boosting production, selling paddy to the state, and building up organizational revolutionary committees at every locality.

2. The KUFNCD National Council and the Cambodian-Vietnamese friendship association should, in cooperation with Phnom Penh, organize a get-together to talk about the 17 April victory.

3. Services and offices at the central level, factories, enterprises, schools, hospitals, and armed units in all villages, communes, and districts all over the country should arrange the meeting to talk about the 17 April victory along with celebrating the traditional New Year.

4. The Ministry of Information should cooperate with Phnom Penh to organize a photo exhibition and movie screening to celebrate the anniversary of the 17 April victory and the New Year. Moreover, the Ministry of Information should print posters to distribute to the provinces and cities throughout the country, enabling them to organize photo exhibitions as well. Composition of songs encouraging struggle against the U.S. imperialists, in particular the present genocidal alliance, and on our past achievements should be promoted. The Ministry of Information should give further concrete advice to its offices in various localities to jubilantly, economically, and safely organize the two festivities. Sports activities should also be arranged to welcome the two ceremonies.

5. Phnom Penh should organize a corvee to clean and beautify the city. Advice should be given to all the localities to hoist the national flag at the same time from 13 to 17 April 1991.

6. Along with celebrating the traditional New Year, all levels, sectors, and localities should visit disabled and wounded combatants at various hospitals and their families, families to which the revolution is obligated, and various armed units. They should send out letters of greetings to cadres and combatants on active duty along the Cambodian-Thai border as well.

7. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should inform our embassies overseas to organize the celebration of the anniversary in conformity with the aforesaid directive.

8. Radio, television, newspapers, and SPK should conduct a proper propaganda campaign from 10 to 20 April 1991 in line with the aforementioned guidelines.

9. The Central Propaganda and Education Commission is confident and hopeful that all levels, sectors, and localities will jointly implement and make the directive a success, and that they will present to the central commision before 30 April 1991 a report on the outcome of the celebration which will be then forwarded to the party Central Committee.

Slogans:

1. Long live the glorious Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party.

2. Long live the eternal spirit of the 17 April victory.

3. Enthusiastically welcome the 16th anniversary of the day of our people's victory over the U.S. imperialists and their lackey state authorities 17 April 1975-17 April 1991.

4. Relations of militant solidarity and cooperation in all fields among Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos will remain intact forever.

5. Motivate the proselytization movement to zealously boost productivity and to carry on duties in keeping with the slogans: Everything is for the battlefield, and everything is for enhancing the people's confidence in the new regime.

6. Actively participate in every important campaign launched by the party and state.

7. Long live the glorious State of Cambodia.

Hun Sen Receives Greetings From Kaysone Phomvihan

BK1504140091 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao Peopls's Democratic Republic, recently sent a message of greetings to Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, on the latter's 40th birthday.

The message read: We wish to convey the warmest greetings and best wishes to you. May you have the best of health and achieve new, still greater successes in the implementation of your noble tasks.

We are firmly confident that the relations of friendship and solidarity and cooperation between our two nations and peoples will develop with each passing day and remain intact forever.

Bou Thang Visits 7th Division Cadres, Combatants

BK1604101791 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] On 13 April, a delegation of the party, state, and Defense Ministry led by Comrade General Bou Thang, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and chief of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] General Political Department, visited and presented gifts—commodity goods and an amount of money—to cadres and combatants of the 7th Division.

Also in the delegation were Comrade Sar Kheng, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, head of the party Central Committee's cabinet, and chairman of the Central Organization Commission, and a number of comrade deputy ministers.

The delegation heard a report by Comrade Colonel (Hem Han), political commissar of the 7th Division, on building and strengthening the division since its establishment. Comrade Colonel (Hem Han) also informed the delegation of the fighting spirit and combat feats of each unit within the division in fulfilling its tasks in the area assigned by the Defense Ministry.

The colonel also made some requests concerning the building and strengthening of the units to enhance the valiant spirit of cadres and combatants in carrying out national defense tasks.

Comrade General Bou Thang expressed elation over accomplishments of cadres and combatants. He also conveyed the best regards of the party and state on the occasions of the traditional New Year and the 16th anniversary of the 17 April victory over the U.S. imperialists and their satellite administration.

Comrade General Bou Thang also pointed out on the strategic maneuvers of the genocidal alliance which still desires to prolong the war of bloodshed and to sabotage the people's peaceful life. He stressed that in the current period, all cadres and combatants must always heighten vigilance against enemy psychological warfare, adding that their military strategies cannot conquer us. All comrades must continue heightening the will to fight, be ready to fight to defend people's peaceful life, and pay attention to military training to enhance our position of strength and victory.

Chea Sim Greets Lao Counterpart on Birthday

BK1604075891 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Recently, Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia, sent a greetings message to Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan on his 77th birthday. The message noted:

I wish the comrade chairman good health, powerful strength, wisdom, and greater successes in your noble task.

The Cambodian party, National Assembly, government, and people highly value your contributions to strengthening and expanding the special bond of friendship and militant solidarity between our two parties, states, peoples, and assemblies for the common cause of peace and socialism.

Tie Banh Receives Lao Army Delegation

BK1604080591 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] On the morning of 13 April, Comrade General Tie Banh, member of the the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of National Defense, received and had a cordial talk with a delegation of the Lao People's Army [LPA] General Political Department led by Comrade Lieutenant General Osakan Thammatheva, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], deputy minister of National Defense, and chief of the LPA General Political Department, which is on a visit to the State of Cambodia.

During the talk Comrade General Tie Banh expressed a warm welcome to the LPA General Political Department's visit made at a time when the Cambodian people throughout the country are celebrating the traditional New Year, year of the goat. He added that this visit significantly contributed to consolidating and expanding the bonds of solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between the two parties, governments, and particularly the Defense Ministries and General Political Departments of Cambodia and Laos.

Comrade General Tie Banh also informed the delegation of the military and enemy situations in the 1990-91 dry season.

In his reply Comrade Lieutenant General Osakan Thammatheva conveyed best regards from the leaders of the Lao Defense Ministry to the leaders of the Defense Ministry of the State of Cambodia and thanked the General Political Department of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces for providing facilities for the delegation during its successful visit. The comrade also spoke on the outcome of the conference of the two armies' General Political Departments and the success of the recent LPRP's Fifth Congress.

Comrade Lieutenant General Osakan Thammatheva also extended New Year wishes for good health and success to the leaders of the State of Cambodia's Defense Ministry.

Tie Banh Sends New Year Greetings to Laos

BK1504145091 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] On the occasion of the traditional New Year of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDP], Comrade General Tie Banh, defense minister of the State of Cambodia, sent a message of greetings to the LPDR defense minister, Comrade His Excellency Khamtai Siphandon.

The message read: On behalf of the Defense Ministry's leaders and the Cambodian People's Armed Forces cadres and combatants, and in my own name, I would like to convey best wishes to you and your family. May all of you enjoy happiness and achieve every success in the implementation of your present noble tasks. Through you, I would also like to wish the leaders of the LPDR Defense Ministry and the cadres and combatants of the brotherly Lao People's Armed Forces the best of health, vibrant physical strength, and every success in carrying out their present tasks.

May the special relations of friendship and solidarity and cooperation between our two peoples and Armies further develop and stengthen eternally.

Tie Banh Greets Cadres, Combatants on New Year

BK1604081291 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] On the occasion of our Cambodian people's traditional New Year, the year of the goat, on behalf of the Defense Ministry, Comrade General Tie Banh, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and defense minister, has extended best wishes to all cadres and male and female combatants who are on missions on all battlefields, hospitalized, or at training schools inside and outside the country, as well as families of all fallen and disabled combatants, for their happiness, good health, quick recovery, and greater victories in carrying out the tasks assigned by the party and people.

Comrade Tie Banh stressed: The past year, the year of the horse, was the year that we scored brilliant victories in all aspects, particularly in the military field. We smashed all forms of enemy schemes aimed at overturning our revolution. We smashed the enemy manpower, destroyed their command posts and arms caches, and seized many metric tons of ammunition. We have exposed their secret networks one after another, repulsed their psychological warfare in a timely manner, destroyed [words indistinct], and inflicted heavy defeats on them. Despite successive defeats, the enemies have stubbornly sought every means to sabotage our people's peaceful life.

The comrade general exhorted all members of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] to continue heightening vigilance and readiness to fight, enhance unity around the party and state of the State of Cambodia, particularly among our CPAF units, strive hard in study and training in order to build genuine forces in their respective units, temper themselves well to become the people's army, advance toward achieving more victories in the coming dry season, stop in a timely manner enemy psychological warfare, and prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

Hor Namhong Receives Message From Hungary's Geza

BK1704093391 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Recently Comrade Hor Namhong, minister of foreign affairs of the State of Cambodia, received a message of thanks from Dr. Jeszenszky Geza, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Hungary.

The message reads: I thank Your Excellency for the best wishes you sent to me on the national day of the Republic of Hungary. I agree with your opinion that the good relations between our two Foreign Ministries would contribute to the strengthening of bilateral friendly cooperation.

I wish you good health and new successes in your important responsibilities.

Politburo Member Nguon Nhel Visits Takeo Province

BK1304143191 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Summary] On 8 April at Takeo Province's assembly hall, a meeting to sum up the province's 1990 agricultural works and to set targets for the 1991 implemention was solemnly held under the chairmanship of Comrade Nguon Nhel, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of agriculture.

During the two-day conclave, the participants listened to the report reviewing the performance of agricultural works in 1990 and on the targets to be implemented in 1991 read by Comrade Nuon Bophal, chief of the provincial agriculture service.

Taking the floor, Comrade Nguon Nhel highly valued the agricultural development in the province and urged the delegates to pay attention to effectively caring for the crops with a view toward garnering high yield.

SRV Move Toward Normalizing U.S. Ties Viewed

BK1704111991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Political commentary: "Vietnam Wants To Lead the U.S. Down the Garden Path Again at this Final Stage of the Game"]

[Text] Vietnam turned down the United States' proposal on normalizing relations recently. According to the terms of the proposal, Vietnam should close the book on its policy of aggression against Cambodia first, and then the U.S. would normalize relations with it. However, Vietnam has contended that the U.S. was wrong to make the settlement of the Cambodian problem a precondition for the normalization of relations. This is because if the U.S. had agreed to mend relations first, the Cambodian problem would have been brought to a conclusion.

This Vietnamese demand has clearly revealed their yearnings. In fact, without the usual strong support from the Soviet Union, Vietnam has to turn to the U.S.—the most influential world superpower. The Vietnamese proposal is evidence that it wants to bypass the U.S. to further its policy of controlling Cambodia for awhile, at least. Can Vietnam's attempt be realized?

The proposal contains some points that the U.S. would have taken for granted if the latter had not been aware of the bad record of the treacherous and cunning Vietnamese. The U.S. has already exposed Vietnam's true nature. As such, Vietnam's intended foul play on the Cambodian at this final stage of the game is certainly hopeless. And Vietnam must clearly understand that it can no longer lead the U.S. down the garden path.

The U.S. proposal bluntly shows that it does not trust Vietnam. The U.S. has made the Cambodian settlement a precondition for the restoration of relations because the U.S. is aware that Vietnam may try to deceive it again. Should Vietnam oppose the proposal—or in other words, should Vietnam try to restore relations with the U.S. before it ends its policy of aggression in Cambodia—would this not be Vietnam's attempt at deception as already anticipated by the U.S.?

The international community condemns Vietnam because it invaded Cambodia, and the U.S.' refusal to restore relations with Vietnamese is also to punish Vietnam. As such, as long as Vietnam continues its aggression against Cambodia, the international community and the U.S. will need to continue to condemn Vietnam to force it to relinquish their policy of aggression against Cambodia. The economic sanctions against Vietnam is akin to punching the Vietnamese, who are strangling Cambodia. The punching will stop if Vietnam frees Cambodia and return independence to the Cambodians. If Vietnam wants the international community to stop smacking it, it should release Cambodia from the control of its communist puppet regime.

The U.S. and the international community has realized that drastic measures should be taken against Vietnam. And if Vietnam is sincere, it must first end its policy of aggression in Cambodia.

By all appearances, Vietnam's proposal to the U.S. represents another Vietnamese plot, making the U.S. and the international community more guarded.

Laos

Thai Finance Minister Arrives for 4-Day Visit

BK1604075791 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] At noon yesterday, the delegation of the Finance Ministry of the Kingdom of Thailand led by Finance Minister Suthi Singsane arrived in Vientiane for a 4-day working visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR].

On the afternoon of the same day, Minister Suthi Singsane called on and met with Khamsai Souphanouvong, acting minister of economy, planning, and finance of the LPDR. During the meeting the two sides consulted with each other on the financial cooperation between the two countries, aimed at promoting economic development. They also exchanged views on finding ways to resolve some problems so as to create favorable conditions for promoting trade relations and economic cooperation between Laos and Thailand in the immediate future and in the long run.

The Thai delegation later called on Mrs. Pani Yathotou, chairman of the Bank of the LPDR, to discuss the possibility of developing banking cooperation between the two countries.

Suthi Singsane was scheduled to call on Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign affairs minister, and to visit Luang Prabang Province the next day.

Suthi, Delegation Depart 14 Apr

BK1604122091 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] The Finance Ministry delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand led by Finance Minister Suthi Singsane left Vientiane for Bangkok on the afternoon of 14 April, concluding a four-day official visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

During the visit, Suthi Singsane and the Lao side held consultative meetings on monetary and financial cooperation and ways to promote future economic and trade relations. Suthi also paid a courtesy call on Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign affairs minister.

This is Suthi Singsane's first visit to Laos following the formation of the new Thai Government by the National Peacekeeping Council in early March.

Phoun Sipaseut Receives Outgoing PRC Envoy

BK1104112091 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Yesterday afternoon at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs, received a call from Liang Feng, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PRC, who bade him farewell at the end of his five-year mission in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

During the call, Phoun Sipaseut exchanged views with the outgoing PRC ambassador on various issues related to the friendship and solidarity between Laos and China, which are developing at a considerably good pace.

Kaysone Phomvihan Receives New Year Well-Wishers

BK1604130391 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] On the morning of 15 April, the Office of the Council of Ministers organized a ceremony to extend best wishes to Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers,on the occasion of the Lao traditional New Year. The ceremony was held at the government and party guest house.

On the same day, representatives of the Bank of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Vietnamese specialists working in Laos also called on and wished the chairman of the LPRP Central Committee good health, longevity, and success in carrying out his noble duties so that he can continue his revolutionary tasks to bring about happiness and prosperity for our Lao multiethnic people.

On the occasion, Kaysone Phomvihan cordially talked with the leading party and government cadres who came to greet him. He said: Despite the confusing world and regional situation, enemies' subtle and dangerous endeavors in all areas to undermine our country, and prevailing economic and social difficulties, we have been able to defend our national independence, sovereignty, and new regime, thus ensuring poltical stability, social peace, and order and lead our nation toward the predesignated direction. Touching on the resolution of the Fifth Party Congress, the party Central Committee chairman advised that all sectors concentrate on agricultural production, regarded by our party as battlefield no. 1, to meet the grain demand in the country and retain a substantial reserve. He expressed his profound thanks and wished everyone good health throughout the Year of the Goat.

Delegate Discusses Cultural Work at Congress

BK1104132991 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Speech by Bounteng Vongsai, delegate of the Ministry of Information and Culture, delivered at the Fifth Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party held in Vientiane on 28 March—recorded]

[Text] In the past five years, realizing the spirit of the resolution of the Fourth Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], which stated that we must rectify our senses regarding culture, arts, and literary work as an insignificant sector and in stressing that efforts should be made only to develop the economy so as to resolve all problems of the country, the party has come to understand the great role of this work which is an important part of the ideological and cultural revolution.

In the cultural sector, we have made a number of outstanding achievements, namely the organizing of a nationwide contest of folk arts; the survey, repair, and restoration of some ruins of historical and cultural significance; and the continued promotion of artistic and literary movements in an extensive manner among our people. This contributes to building a simple, pure, and civilized way of life and encourages our people to develop a profound sense of mutual affection, unity, and respect. Lao artists and composers have overcome numerous difficulties and have invented and created numerous literary works to serve our society and to please our masses of all strata.

In parallel with winning some achievements as mentioned above, the cultural sector has encountered a considerable number of shortcomings, thus delaying and retarding cultural progress in some areas. The safeguarding and enhancing of the traditional national culture, especially the ethnic culture, remain very weak and unplanned. The motion picture, library, museum, publishing, arts, and literary work has been carried out at a minimal scale. Our overall cultural production has not yet been able to meet the need of society nor to command much support from the people. Therefore, it has not been able to maintain its artistic and literary vanguard role in the entire country.

In the past, we have also failed to absorb the effects of foreign culture in a selective manner. As a result, our people have been culturally driven into the defensive in various aspects. This is the greatest and most worrisome weak point in our cultural work, which must be rectified by us and other sectors concerned if the party's line on cultural work is to be fully realized as spelled out in the political report presented at this congress. That is, while safeguarding and enhancing the traditional collective national culture, we must pay attention to promoting and assisting the multiethnic people in transforming the multicolored and multiformed culture and arts into the common culture of the entire people so as to combine it with the essence of the culture of mankind to create national, popular, and progressive culture.

To fulfill the aforementioned great and noble task, first of all the work in the guiding and organizing of the implementation of cultural work must be renovated. The management mechanisms of cultural work must also be restructured throughout the country to conform to reality and to become genuinely efficient. At the same time, we must implement an appropriate policy to boost the morale and to improve the material and spiritual life of artists, composers, and cultural activists. We must set up the associations of writers, composers, and artists in various branches so as to act as firm foundations for the cultural movement of the masses and to march forward to take the initiative in the arena of the collective national culture.

I am very proud to hear the political report of the party Central Committee say that in the immediate future, we must continue organizing, assisting, and promoting the artistic and cultural movement of the masses extensively; strengthen the material and technical foundations for the cultural sector; and urgently outline a policy of providing material and spiritual support to all composers and artists. This once again clearly shows the attention and concern of our party toward the cultural branch and the cultural life of the multiethnic Lao people.

Philippines

Enrile Calls Goh's Remarks on Bases 'Nonsense'

HK1704070191 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 17 Apr 91 p 12

[Text] Lone opposition Sen Juan Ponce Enrile said Tuesday it is "nonsense" to believe that closing U.S. military bases in the Philippines would lead to instability in the region.

Sen Juan Ponce Enrile was reacting to remarks made here last week by Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, who said China, Japan, or India might try to assert their dominance in Southeast Asia if the U.S. facilities here were closed. "This argument that there will be a (power) vacuum in this part of the world if America will not have military bases here, I think, is nonsense," Enrile said at a luncheon with foreign correspondents.

Enrile, who plans to run in the 1992 presidential elections, said the United States will maintain its presence in the South China Sea and keep its western defense line even if its large air and naval facilities here are closed. "I ask the Americans: Who is the enemy of the Philippines for which we need the security umbrella of America?... Who is going to destabilize Southeast Asia?" Enrile said. "In my own view, I don't think there is any country today that would destabilize this area." He said there would be more reason to close the bases if Soviet- Japanese relations improved following Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Japan this week.

Enrile said that based on his 17-year experience as defense minister, the bases were not needed "to make us survive security- wise." The presence of the bases has made Filipino dependent on the United States for external defense, and they have neglected to modernize their armed forces, he said.

The 1947 agreement for U.S. use of Clark Air Base, Subic Bay naval base and four smaller installations expires on Sept 16. Talks on a new treaty to retain the bases have bogged down over the issue of compensation and the duration of an extenstion.

Aquino Welcomes Suggestions on Bases Consultations

HK1704061591 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 17 Apr 91 pp 1, 12

[By Marcia C. Rodriguez]

[Text] President Aquino welcomed yesterday suggestions from all quarters on how to conduct the public consultations on the treaty to replace the existing RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Military Bases Agreement (MBA) which expires on Sept. 16.

"It has been pointed out by several senators that without the existence of a treaty, there is really nothing on which we can consult the people. However, we await specific suggestions from all quarters, especially the Senate, on this matter," she said.

At the same time, she expressed her hope that the Senate would consider the national interest over personal ambitions when the treaty is brought to them for ratification. "It is our fervent wish that the Senate will act in a manner that they perceive to be the best for the country. I am sure that the individual senators will do what they view to be in the national interest," she said.

President Aquino said this in reaction to a statement made by a Malacanang official that the treaty would most likely be ratified by the 23-member Senate with the relatively younger senators approving the agreement. He said senators would ratify the treaty, considering to gain U.S. support which is known to be vital to the advancement of their political career. Based on the actions and pronouncements of senators, the Palace source said only two senators are expected to keep their anti-bases stance, 13 would certainly vote in favor of the agreement, eight with ambivalent positions would most likely approve the treaty.

Section 4, Article 18, of the 1987 Constitution states: "All existing treaties or international agreements which have not been ratified shall not be renewed or extended without the concurrence of at least two-thirds of all the members of the Senate."

The Palace source said those expected to reject the treaty are Senators Rene Saguisag and Wigberto Tanada. Those who will most likely approve the treaty are Senators Edgardo Angara, Leticia Ramos Shahani, Heherson Alvarez, Victor Ziga, Mamintal Tamano, Santanina Rasul, Sotero Laurel, Jose Lina, Ernesto Herrera, Alberto Romulo, Neptali Gonzales, John Osmena, and Vicente Paterno. The senators who have indicated an anti-bases stance but may yet reconsider their position are Senate President Jovito Salonga, and Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Orlando Mercado, Ernesto Maceda, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Agapito Aquino, Teofisto Guingona, and Joseph Estrada.

Mrs. Aquino expressed openness to suggestions on consultation after Senate President Jovito Salonga criticized Malacanang's stand to seek the public's pulse after a treaty has been signed by the Philippine and U.S. negotiating panels.

In a meeting with the Malacanang Press Corps last week, Salonga said that if ever a consultation is held, it should be done before the signing of the agreement. But he said the parameters of the consultation must be defined. "I am not in favor of consultations on the basis of one simple, simplified question—are you in favor of extension—without knowing what are the terms of the agreement," he said.

He proposed that prior to signing the treaty, persons who are knowledgeable about the bases should be consulted. He shared the belief of nationalist Renato Constantino on the treaty that holding the consultations after the signing of the treaty is only aimed to embarrass the senators. "I concur with Constantino's observation that if we truly want to uphold the national interest, we should consult first those who are in the know because not all people understand the issue ... We should not hold consultations on a very simplistic question and only after you have signed it already," he added.

Osmena on 'Double Trade' Pact for Bases Retention

HK1704062191 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 17 Apr 91 p 12

[Text] Cebu Gov. Emilio "Lito" Osmena said yesterday he favors the retention of the U.S. military bases on condition that the U.S. government agrees to a "double trade" agreement that would enable the Philippines to strengthen its economic base.

The continued stay of the Americans in the Philippines guarantees the country's security, Osmena said. The Philippine government should not even ask the U.S. to pay rent, Osmena said. He made these statements on the bases issue after he formally declared his availability for the presidential race in the 1992 national elections. He was a speaker at a meeting of the Harvard Club at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila in Makati.

"The use of the bases should be kept free in exchange for a double trade for a certain period of time so that the money goes to the private sector and builds up our economic base for export purposes and then it would have greater productivity," Osmena said.

"I wish the day would come when we could pay the Americans to stay. The Japanese do, the Germans do, the Koreans do. Believe you me, they (Americans) are the best security guards. Ask the Saudis and the Kuwaitis," he said.

"Phase out? ... It will happen anyway. Remember that if we hasten it, and there's a vacuum, the Japanese will rearm," Osmena explained. He said that Cebu now contributes to the national government P [Philippine peso] 15 billion which is more than the annual bases rent given by the U.S. government.

Osmena said that his success in transforming Cebu into an "economic miracle" is his best argument why he should be elected president. He said, however that he has not decided yet which of the 1,000 political parties registered with the Commission on Elections (Comelec) he will join.

Senator on 'Other Nations' Use of Crow Valley

HK1704061791 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 17 Apr 91 p 12

[Text] Sen. Wigberto Tanada said yesterday that allowing the United States to "piggyback" on the use by other nations of the Crow Valley Weapons Range in Clark Air Base violates the provision of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. military bases agreement (MBA) and provoke a constitutional crisis.

"Nowhere in the 1947 agreement is the U.S. authorized, in effect, to re-lease or underlet from time to time Philippine territory by allowing the armed forces of other nations to enter the country and use the Crow Valley Weapons Range for U.S. training schemes," he asserted in a press statement.

Under Section 25 of the RP-U.S. MBA, the United States "shall not, without the consent of the Philippines, assign, or underlet, part with the possession of the whole or any part of any base, or any right, power, or authority granted by this agreement, to any third power."

For a number of years now, the armed forces of Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, United Kingdom, Malaysia, and Thailand have been using the facilities of Crow Valley through arrangements with Clark Air Base.

Tanada said that provisions of the Special Operating Arrangements in Annex I of the 1979 Amendments to the RP-U.S. MBA on arrangements regarding delineation of U.S. facilities at Clark and Subic, Crow Valley "is reserved for joint use of Philippine and United States forces" only.

In Malacanang, President Aquino has defended the legality of the use by allied forces of Clark facilities as the U.S. panel in the ongoing bases talks admitted the use of Crow Valley facilities for air exercises and test-firing by allied military personnel.

United States Information Service (USIS) Director Stanley Schrager, U.S. panel spokesman, said the use of Crow Valley for such purposes is allowed under Article 25 of the MBA, over which Tanada has an opposite view.

Ramos Seeks 'Fair and Square Shot' at Nomination

HK1604130391 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 16 Apr 91 p 10

[By Maricar S. Bautista]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos yesterday asked members of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] to give him a "fair and square" shot at the party nomination for the 1992 presidential elections.

Mr. Ramos expressed concern over reports that he will be relegated to the vice-presidential slot in the party. He said all he wants is that he "be given a fair and square chance because after all I think there is a big following behind me," he said during his meeting with civilian and military officials in Daet, Camarines Norte. He had not officially joined the LDP but expressed willingness to do so. He said he is aspiring for the highest position in the Government, and the LDP is one step further toward this aspiration. Reports said he is getting frustrated about the turn of events putting him outside of the race for LDP nomination.

He admitted he had heard reports about some leaders "relegating me to the number two slot," noting though that "this could be some sort of hype." He would not say categorically if certain LDP leaders were blocking his chances.

Sources close to him have intimated to BUSINESS WORLD last week that the period prior to April 27 is crucial for the defense chief's decision-making. They said he can still change his mind and not join the LDP at all. Mr. Ramos also assured the LDP that his followers can lend a great deal of support to the party.

The launching of the United People Power movement (UPPM) which endorsed him for president, however, was viewed with skepticism by LDP leaders who ordered Mr. Ramos to distance himself from the group. UPPM had said they would spinoff into a political party if Mr. Ramos was not chosen as the standard bearer of the LDP.

AFP Association Backs Aguirre, Seeks Insulation

HK1704062391 Quezon City MALAYA in English 17 Apr 91 p 1

[By Noel Bartolome and Marie Rose Feliciano]

[Text] The Association of AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Generals and Flag Officers Inc., a group of retired military officers, yesterday expressed support for Maj. Gen. Alexander Aguirre, resigned AFP deputy chief of staff, as they asked the government to insulate the military from partisan politics and institute reforms in the military's promotion process. The association, said to be a very influential group, is composed of 418 retired officers of star rank.

Brig. Gen. Guillermo Pecache, association president, said while the association recognizes President Aquino's prerogative to choose the chief of staff, it supports Aguirre's right to stand up for what he thinks is just and right.

Aguirre filed a 500-day leave last week after President Aquino announced her appointment of Maj. Gen. Lisandro Abadia as new AFP chief of staff. He charged that Abadia's appointment was influenced by partisan politics. Later in the week, Aguirre expressed willingness to cooperate with Abadia but vowed to continue working for a politics-free military promotion system.

Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, emerging from a meeting with the President, denied that he was "in the dark" when Mrs. Aquino announced Abadia's appointment. He said the President called him up in Tokyo during which he and the President discussed the possible negative effects of the appointment. Aguirre is known to to be close to Ramos. He added he informed Aguirre of the decision that night.

Ramos said when he arrived on April 7, he and Biazon had a three-hour discussion with Aguirre, dissuading him from staging a public outburst. Ramos said they told Aguirre a public outburst would do no good for the government, the AFP, and himself since he is in active service.

Five Recommended for Top Air Force Post

HK1604121891 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 16 Apr 91 p 9

[Text] When he vacates his post as Air Force chief on April 20, Maj. Gen. Gerardo Protacio could usher in yet another crisis in the Armed Forces.

Protacio said yesterday that he has recommended to President Aquino five generals for the post of PAF [Philippine Air Force] chief, one of them being the older brother of the controversial newly-appointed Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. Lisandro Abadia.

Protacio said he does not foresee any grumblings from four of the candidates because they are equal in terms of seniority. The most senior of the five, Brig. Gen. Arturo Castro, currently assigned as the Philippine military attache to Washington D.C. apparently is not interested, Protacio said.

The four are Brig. Gen. Nicasio Rodriguez, commander of the President Airlift wing; Brig. Gen. Leopoldo Acot, commander of the Second air Division Mactan Air Base; Brig. Gen. Epinito Logico, commander of the 15th Strike wing in Sangley Air Base; and Brig. Gen. Loven Abadia, commander of the 205th helicop wing and concurrently the PAF Vice Commander.

"Logically, the vice commander should be the next commanding general, but the position has political ramifications. You have to look beyond the Air Force," Protacio said.

Honasan, Calajate Reportedly Sighted in Bicol

HK1604135191 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 16 Apr 91 p 8

[By Wilma Yamzon]

[Text] Military authorities have launched a region-wide manhunt for ultrarightist leaders Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and former commodore Domingo Calajate in Bicol.

It was reported that the two renegade officers were sighted in Bicol and that Commodore Calajate was nearly arrested by intelligence agents in a police dragnet set up two weeks ago in Daet, Camarines Norte. This developed as Camp Aguinaldo announced yesterday the capture of another rebel officer in Nueva Ecija.

Captured was Constabulary Capt Edgardo H. Divina, allegedly one of the leaders in the 1986 coup attempt. Col Juanito Rimando, spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), said Divina was picked up at District 8 Poblacion in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija by Army intelligence men.

Divina, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class 1977, was on his way home from a coronation ceremony when he was arrested by military agents. He was involved in the Balintawak incident on Jan 27, 1987. He allegedly led fully armed rebel soldiers who were fielded to Metro Manila to disrupt the 1987 plebiscite.

Rimando said Divina allegedly worked with Lt Col Reynaldo Cabautan in previous coup attempts. He is facing charges before the General Court Martial No. 8 for violation of Articles of War [AW] 67 and 97, mutiny and conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline, respectively.

Rimando said Divina participated in the unauthorized movement of military troops, composed of 108 Army troops and three Constabulary with 85 assorted firearms from Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija. Divina is also charged with violation of AW62 (absence without leave). He is also being investigated for possible involvement in the August 1987 coup attempt.

Provincial command director Lt Col Manuel Porras said former commodore Calajate was seen twice in Daet in a convoy of four vehicles. Brig Gen Miguel Fontanilla, police regional commander, told Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, who visited Camarines Norte, that Honasan was also spotted in Bulan, Sorsogon.

Soldiers Fail To Capture NPA Camp in Mindoro

HK1604134591 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 16 Apr 91 p 8

[By Robert Evora]

[Text] Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro—Military officials reported yesterday that government forces failed to capture a well fortified 10-hectare operational base camp of the New People's Army (NPA) on the second day of the "Summer Offensive" launched by the Philippine National Police (PNP).

The heavily defended guerrilla camp situated near Mt. Wood, this town, some 3,000 feet above sea level, is being defended by some 400 to 500 NPA rebels, Col. Rogelio Aguana, Task Mina de Oro commander, told PNP Director-General Cesar Nazareno.

The military official said that the NPA defenders exchanged shots with the attacking government troopers composed of three police companies flown here from Batangas, Laguna, and Cavite provinces to beef up the two Mindoro commands in the campaign.

Aguana also said that four attack MG-520 helicopters of the 15th Strike Wing of the Air Force failed to take off yesterday morning because of thick fog. The camp is reportedly equipped with a cemented helipad, three machinegun towers, fortified bunkers, obstacle courses and a 60 mm mortar.

Brig. Gen. Evaristo Carino, PNP regional director, ordered Lt. Col. Edmundo Aquino, Oriental Mindoro PNP chief, and Lt. Col. Jumdam Abdullah, Occidental Mindoro PNP chief, to augment the three blocking forces. Nazareno, Carino and Gov. Benjamin Espiritu brought food to the embattled troops.

Police Capture CPP 'Top Member' in Quezon City

HK1604131091 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 16 Apr 91

[By Restie de Quiros]

[Text] Another top member of the Communist Party of the Philippines fell into the hands of the Philippine National Police forces.

According to the report received by Philippine National Police Director General Cesar Nazareno, the captured communist leader, identified as George Babiera alias Nonoy and Bitoy, was said to be a regular member of the international liaison group of the NPA [New People's Army] general command and have a 70,000 pesos price on his head.

Babiera was captured at No. 8 Andre Street, Metro Heights subdivision, Quezon City, by the members of the Criminal Investigation Service command headed by Brigadier General Vicente Vinarao.

Seized from Babiera were a 9-mm pistol, bullets, and radios. Nazareno also said that Babiera has already travelled in Europe, Hong Kong, Singapore, and elsewhere to raise funds for the communist movement in the Philippines.

Official Claims MNLF Behind Mindanao Kidnappings

HK1604111091 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 16 Apr 91 p 3

[By Fidel F. Asor Jr.]

[Text] A congressman from Mindanao yesterday charged that, contrary to claims made by the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] that it was not involved in the recent spate of kidnappings in Mindanao, information he received showed that the separatist rebels are indeed behind the incidents.

Appearing before the weekly breakfast forum Kapihan sa Maynila [Manila Coffee Forum] at the Manila Hotel, Representative Rodrigo Gutang (LDP, [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] North Cotabato) said his informants told him that the MNLF was involved in the Mindanao kidnappings. Before becoming congressman, Gutang was a military officer who served extensively in the South.

Also yesterday President Aquino directed AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Lisandro Abadia to go to Cotabato and personally look into the increasing incidents of kidnappings-for-ransom in that province and neighboring areas.

Reports from Mindanao said that another Maguindanao businessman has been kidnapped near a police checkpoint in Cotabato. The latest abduction followed the release of a Mindanao professor by bandits last week, reportedly after ransom was paid. "The police and military agencies are doing all they can to bring the situation to normalcy. In this connection, I have instructed Lieutenant General Abadia to go to Cotabato tomorrow (April 16)," the President said in a statement released to Palace reporters.

Earlier, MNLF leaders assured the government the group was not behind the kidnap-for-ransom spree, blaming plain bandits for the despicable acts. Only the other day, another Filipino-Chinese businessman was abducted in Maguindanao, the 28th victim since September last year.

Gutang said his informants told him that the MNLF had resorted to kidnappings to raise money since its coffers had started to dry up as foreign financial support now only comes in trickles as an aftermath of the Gulf war. He said the separatist group was in great need of money to purchase arms and to finance its daily operations.

According to him, the MNLF's financial supporters in the Middle- East have slowed down contributions to the group as they themselves needed money following the financially-devastating Gulf war. "There is virtually no (financial) support from outside," Gutang said in an interview after the forum. He added that these aggressive acts of the MNLF would indicate that it is preparing to build up its organization in preparation for an offensive in the future. But while the series of kidnappings had started to destabilize the region, especially its economy, Gutang said the MNLF's threat to the country's security as a whole still remained nil. He said the military must immediately stop these kidnappings as failure to do so would surely destabilize the country.

Also during the forum, Manuel Roxas, deputy director general for operations of the Philippine National Police (PNP), said the defense establishment was looking into the possibility that rightist military rebels are responsible for the series of kidnappings in Mindanao. "We cannot discount the perception by some quarters that the military rebels are hehind the kidnappings to reignite the Christian-Muslim conflict," Roxas said. Thousands of soldiers died during the Christian-Muslim conflict in the 70s.

Leqnardo Quisumbing, defense undersecretary, and Ramon Montano, interior and local government undersecretary, believed that "there is a bright prospect for peace and order in the next two years."

French missionary Father Yves Caroff was seized on March 27 in Mindanao and is being held for a P [Philippine pesos] 10 million ransom. His church has refused to pay despite threats that he may be killed.

The MNLF has denied involvement in kidnapping Fr. Caroff, saying it is interceding with his unidentified captors for his release. However, the front admitted one of its former guerrillas was behind other kidnappings.

At least 27 people, many of them ethnic Chinese businessmen, have been kidnapped in Mindanao over the last six months. Their captors have raised at least P15 million through ransom, said Gutang, a former general posted in MIndanao.

The MNLF fought a bloody guerrilla war to set up a separate state in Muslim-populated Mindanao in the 1970s, but the campaign lost steam and the front is now widely regarded as a spent force.

Muslim Rebels Kill 11, Wound 8 in Lanao Attack

HK1704065591 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 17 Apr 91 pp 1, 11

[By Aris R. Ilagan]

[Text] Eleven persons were killed while eight others were seriously wounded when armed men believed to be members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) opened fire at a densely populated town in Lanao del Norte over the weekend.

A joint police and military report said that just before midnight last Friday, the armed men strafed a residential area of barangay Kawit Oriental in Kauswagan town. The motive behind the attack has not been determined, probers said.

In a report received at Camp Agruinaldo yesterday, the police identified the fatalities as Leodegario Duay, 24, Lorna Deguilmo, 22, Elmer Dantes, 15, Salvador Baynosa, 49, Richard Edmilao, 14, Lourdes Edmilao, 56, Nicasio Lariosa, 56, Nicasio Lariosa, 29, Narciso Maglasang, 51, Jeonald Artajo, 13, Jaime Ortega, 19, and Rene Boy Edmilao, 6. Those wounded were Lobell Deguilmo, Isabelo Aranjuez, Zusie Baynosa, Lucile Edmilao, Domingo Paglinawan, Mark Gil Edmilao, Esterlita Edmilaom, and Maria Edmilao. The victims were all asleep when the incident occurred.

The report also said that upon the deployment of elements of the 444th Philippine National Police (PNP) company under Celso Regencia and Army 67th Infantry Brigade led by 1Lt. [First Lieutenant] Loreto Andayag in the area, they encountered about 20 heavily armed MNLF rebels at nearby sitio Bubaran, barangay Paiton.

Military authorities said that the residents of barangay Kawit Oriental must have fought back as traces of blood were found in the path used by rebels during their withdrawal. The government troops also recovered two Garand rifles at the scene of the encounter.

Government Considering 3 Debt Rescheduling Schemes

HK1704062991 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 17 Apr 91 pp 1, 9

[Text] The government is working on three possible debt rescheduling packages for presentation to the Paris Club in June, including one which integrates some elements of Poland's debt formula.

If the "near-Polish" package sails through, the country may generate from $1 billion to $1.5 billion in foreign-exchange savings in the next two years. The second will use the "Toronto" formula, which accords heavily indebted poor countries a 35% condonation of principal and a 35% discount on interest. The third is an 18-month rescheduling in which the country wants a moratorium on paying both principal and interest for the agreement's duration. The June negotiations, the fourth rescheduling talks with the Paris Club, will cover close to 41 billion the country owes the 14 members of the club due from July 1, 1991 to Dec. 31, 1992.

Rep. Margarito Teves, a member of the joint executive-legislative debt council, which met yesterday to discuss the coming negotiations, said legislators wanted the Philippine debt panel to push for the "near-Polish" formula since this will generate the most foreign-exchange savings. He said the Toronto formula would only result in some $700 million in both cash flows and debt reduction; the traditional 18-month package will generate $300 million in savings in two years.

Teves said that while the council agreed that the Philippines will not be getting similar debt-relief treatment accorded by the Paris Club earlier to Poland, the country still expected to get "some kind of condonation" from the creditors. The Philippines lagged behind Poland and possibly Turkey in maximum debt relief from the Paris Club.

Poland, in a three-year agreement, will be able to reduce its official debt by 50%, with a 100% rescheduling of principal and 80% restructuring of interest. At the same time, the U.S. agreed to write off 70% of Poland's debt.

Teves said that at the council meeting, it was observed that Turkey may receive same debt relief given as Poland when it sits down with its official creditors next month. "Turkey has a peculiar advantage which is being pushed by the U.S. to gain similar debt condonation as Poland. There are geo-military and political considerations here because Turkey played a key role in the Middle East conflicts resolution," Teves said.

A concern raised by the debt negotiating panel at the council meeting was the possible adverse impact a Polish-type debt-rescheduling formula might have on the new financial package being worked out with foreign commercial banks. John Reed, chairman of Citibank N.A., one of the country's 12 bank advisers, told the council that such a formula would not work for the Philippines.

World Bank Loans Manila $65 Million Under IDA

HK1704065391 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 17 Apr 91 p 11

[By Benjamin B. Cruz]

[Text] The World Bank [WB] has finally allowed the Philippines to avail of at least $65 million at very low interest rates of 1% to 2% per annum for 40 to 50 years.

Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao told members of the Joint Executive-Legislative Debt Council the WB has enrolled the country for credits under the concessional International Development Association [IDA]. The IDA loan, which is normally given to poor countries, does not require any local counterpart funding and gives the country flexibility in using the facility, provided it is used for "development projects."

Earlier, Mr Estanislao said the $65-million loan will form part of the total financial assistance the United States is going to extend to the Philippines, inclusive of the compensation for the bases. The finance secretary also said the U.S. is giving the country some $700 million to $1 billion in financial assistance per year. He said the total amount would not be limited to compensation receive by the Philippines for the continued tenure of the U.S. military bases in the country, but would include inflows from bilateral assistance. He said Philippine access to "low-interest IDA terms at the WB" to reduce the country's foreign debt burden is "one of the provisions of this financial package from the U.S."

Congressional sources said getting the IDA credit was a result of "lobbying efforts" initiated last year by Mr

Estanislao among high- ranking members of U.S. government. "Apparently, he succeeded," said a source.

The support of the United States, an influential member of the Paris Club, is crucial in obtaining concessional loans from the IDA, a subsidiary of the WB. If access to the IDA soft loan is an indication, the rest of the U.S. assistance Mr Estanislao said can be made available to the Philippines might be also realized soon. These are:

—"Adequate, meaningful flexibility of current programs such as Housing Investment Guarantee and Public Law 480;" and

—Issuance of dollar-denominated reconstruction and development bonds to be issued in two tranches and at concessional rates.

World Bank Says Country 'Lacks a Solid Economy'

HK1704062791 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 17 Apr 91 p 1

[By Arleen Chipongian]

[Text] The country has reached its credit limit and lacks a solid economy to outgrow its dependence on foreign borrowings, World Bank resident representative Rolando Arrivillaga said yesterday.

He said a weak point is the poor tax system. Taxes collected are only 14.3% that of the total goods and services produced and they are not all tax money because foreign grants are counted, too. The average tax efforts ratio among middle-income countries is 15.7%.

"No country ever developed with a low tax ratio. Credit is not ad infinitum. There is a limit and the Philippines has reached that limit," he said.

"How can you expect to have a solid economy when you have a very low tax effort?" he said, adding that what is needed is a permanent revenue base to fund sustained growth. The program to sell government companies helps raise funds for development but it is at most temporary.

The Aquino administration has been pushing for new taxes but Congress won't budge. Consequently, the government ran a P [Philippine peso] 58-billion public-sector deficit last year and had to impose the controversial import levy to generate some money.

But Arrivillaga said this is not the kind of tax the country needs. He called it a "painful way to earn extra revenues for the government." He added that the levy, expected to generate P30 billion this year, lost the benefit it was supposed to bestow when the peso strengthened from P31 to P28 against the dollar. "Ideally, from an economic perspective, a policy like the import levy should be phased out if possible," he said.

Companies have been in uproar over the levy, claiming it has raised their production costs and penalizes even vital sectors unnecessarily. Foreign investors also complained that the levy has unexpectedly raised the amount they needed to go into business here.

Even the international donor community considers it a disincentive to business and raised other concerns affecting the subsidy to the oil sector, the banking system, the investment climate and privatization. Also because of last year's deficit and the reluctance of Congress to pass new tax laws, the government had to cut back on several projects to live within its means.

The result was that it posted a cash surplus of P1.2 billion as of March 22. But economic officials said this was achieved at the expense of growth. The goal of developing a solid economy becomes more remote. As it is, the government already spends much less than it should on development projects. Its public investments program calls for funds equal to 5% of the gross national product, too low compared with international standards.

Arrivilaga said, "Government let the fiscal deficit program to go off track and this wasted a lot of valuable time for the economy to be put on the right track." Putting it on track means the government must be able to mobilize domestic resources for growth. So far, the country has been counting on foreign loans to finance development and the World Bank is one of its major creditors.

In the last Philippine Assistance Program pledging session, it committed $700 million in new loans annually for three years. In the 1990-1991 period, total World Bank loans to the Philippines reached P869 million.

Thailand

Amaret Says U.S. Trade Conditions 'Unacceptable'

BK1604143091 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] The United States has designated Thailand to face investigations and retaliations under Article 301 on 26 April. Reporting on the progress of the application of the U.S. Trade Act's Article 301 against Thailand, the deadline of which was set for 26 April, Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on said it has been confirmed that the U.S. agency concerned has designated Thailand for investigations and retaliations under Article 301. An official U.S. announcement to this effect will be made on 26 April.

In any event, Amaret said the U.S. Government proposed conditions that would enable Thailand to avoid being designated. This is if the Thai Government agrees to propose a bill to amend and pass the patent act during the current National Legislative Assembly session, and that the contents of the amendment must follow U.S. recommendations. Amaret said the characteristics of the conditions make them unacceptable to Thailand because they constitute an interference in the powers of the legislature. He said certain U.S. recommendations were already within the scope of the planned rectifications, such as the protection of medicine patents and suppression of video and music rights violators. In any event, the Commerce Ministry will negotiate with the United States in the next two weeks and a compromise acceptable to both sides is believed to be attainable.

U.S. No 'Real' Friend if 301 Action Taken

BK1704004791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Apr 91 p 17

[Text] Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on is scheduled to meet US Trade Representative [USTR] Carla Hills for talks in Bangkok before Washington makes a final decision on April 26 to designate Thailand a "priority foreign country" under Section 301 of the Trade Act.

Mr Amaret said yesterday the outcome of the talks may help Thailand escape the listing as the Government had made progress recently on several intellectual property rights issues. He said the United States would no longer be a "real" friend of Thailand if Section 301 action was taken. The Government may also protest the matter to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The meeting between Mr Amaret and Mrs Hills is expected to be the last attempt to resolve the dispute over the intellectual property rights issue.

Mr Amaret confirmed a BUSINESS POST report that Washington was expected to include Thailand on the priority country list based on a message from US Ambassador Daniel O'Donohue on Monday after his return from Washington. He said the USTR wanted Bangkok to give an assurance the draft amendment of a law protecting pharmaceutical patents would be tabled in the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) and passed before the end of the year. It also asked the Government to provide protection for all drugs registered in other countries before the law's enforcement.

Mr Amaret said the Government could not accept Washington's demands because they did not comply with international practice. Washington was also expected to make many more demands. "The process of introducing the law depends on the NLA," he said. "The Government cannot exert any pressure." He said Thailand had made a lot of progress on the property rights issue, especially the patent and copyright laws.

Mr. Amaret said Thailand was also improving property rights laws to provide adequate and effective protection so Washington should be appreciative. "The draft amendment of the patent act was completed recently. The Government has improved enforcement of copyright laws by launching a crackdown on copyright pirates and successfully raiding certain violators."

The minister said Washington was also putting pressure on Thailand to liberalise the trade services sector, especially the construction, insurance and transport industries.

"At an informal meeting of representatives of the two countries in Geneva last week, the Americans put forward proposals for Thailand's consideration. We simply confirmed our position that ASEAN was freeing up the trade services sector, excluding commerical banking and insurance," he said.

Mr Amaret also said the Government had sent a protest letter to the US Agriculture Minister asking the ministry to contest the passage of a bill through Congress to increase support for agricultural exports under the Export Enhancement Programme (EEP).

He said the EEP budget for fiscal 1991 had been increased from $425 million to $900 million and would provide financial support for various commodity exports, particularly rice. "The US has many export subsidy programmes for farm products, including export credit guarantees under GSM 102, GSM 103 and the Food for Peace Project under the PL-480 programme. There is no need to further increase export subsidies," he said.

Anan: Country in 'No Position To Dissatisfy' U.S.

BK1704022591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Apr 91 p 17

[Excerpts] The Government yesterday promised improvements to various taxes within six months to create a fairer system for taxpayers, reduce costs and enable Thai exports to be more competitive on the global market.

It also said it was proposing amendments to copyright and patent laws to satisfy the United States so that trade retaliation under the Section 301 provision of the US Trade Act would not be enforced against Thailand.

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun said the improvements to taxes would be in addition to the planned introduction of the value added tax (VAT) system. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Anan said a final decision was still pending on whether the US would designate Thailand a priority foreign country subject to trade retaliation. The announcement is expected on April 26. He also said the priority foreign country designation would not have an immediate impact on Thailand.

It would take six or seven months to feel the pinch, he said. During this period Thailand would be able to make progress on amending its intellectual property rights protection laws. He said Thailand was in no position to dissatisfy the US. "If we can make progress and the US is satisfied, then we believe Section 301 will not be used against us," Mr Anan said. He said the Government would very soon propose to the National Legislative Assembly amendments to the Patent Act. But the Government would consider the interests of its people first and would comply with the rules of the Uruguay Round.

U.S. Envoy, Officials View Copyright Violations

BK1604092991 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 16 Apr 91 pp 7, 14

[Text] According to Police Colonel Wanlop Wachanaphukka, deputy director of the Center for Prevention and Suppression of Economic and Financial Crimes, on 15 April U.S. Ambassador Daniel O'Donohue called on Col Wanlop for a report on the campaign to suppress and prevent rampant violations of U.S. intellectual property rights. He said the United States expressed readiness to assist the Thai police in the suppression efforts.

Wanlop said the reason for the U.S. ambassador's observation of the Thai police's performance was to see how serious they were in the suppression of violations of U.S. copyrights, noting that U.S. businessmen had lodged complaints with the Thai police about rampant violations of U.S. film, music, and other copyrights.

Wanlop said he believed the ambassador was pleased with the Thai police's earnest performance. The ambassador was shown arrest statistics and prosecution evidence testifying to the police's diligent performance. The ambassador was informed that arrests cannot be made easily; they can be made only after there is clear evidence and sound investigation.

To date, the police have arrested the following five persons on charges of copyrights violations: Woraphon Tawethiphong from AVS Video Hi-Fi Company, Bangkok; Anan Wichitpracha from Nat video store, Pathum Thani Province; Narongsak Utudet from U and Jo video store, Nonthaburi Province; Sombun Phusongsirisuk from TS video store, Bangkok; and Master Sergeant Suphon Chanyaem from Siri video store, Bangkok.

Meanwhile, on the same day, the U.S. ambassador called on Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on to discuss intellectual property violations and Article 301 to pressure Thailand to more actively resolve the copyright violations and medicine patent issues. If Thailand fails to comply with the U.S. wish, it is likely that the U.S. Trade Representative will place Thailand on the priority foreign country list. If this is the case, Thailand's investment and foreign trade image will be seriously damaged, affecting the confidence of its trading partners. The Thai Government will have to decide what to do next.

More on Amaret-U.S. Envoy Meet

BK1604031391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Apr 91 p B1

[Text] Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on was informed yesterday that the US Trade Representative (USTR) will likely designate Thailand a "priority foreign country," meaning it can be subject to trade investigations initiated by the trade agency itself.

A source at Government House said that US Ambassador Daniel O'Donohue conveyed this message to the minister when they met yesterday. Amaret is believed to be consulting Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun on the trade sanctions treaty soon.

When asked by reporters what was discussed at yesterday's meeting, Amaret declined to comment. The minister also dismissed rumours that the United States might exert pressure for more trade concessions in exchange for Thailand being excluded from the "priority country" list. He also denied that Thailand is a possible target for US trade sanctions.

The US ambassador has just returned from Washington where he had consultations with USTR officials. The USTR is required to make a final decison by April 26 on whether to upgrade Thailand to a priority foreign country, or maintain it on the priority watch list subject to regular review, or strike it from the list completely. However, prior reports have indicated that the USTR, in its annual review, had suggested that Thailand should be upgraded to a priority foreign country.

Thailand has already been subject to two trade investigations concerning copying and pharmaceutical patent infringements filed by American industries. If Thailand is upgraded to a priority foreign country, the USTR will have 30 days to initiate cases against Thailand that will lead to a 60-day investigation process. By that time, if Thailand has not shown improvement in related areas, the USTR will retaliate immediately by imposing tariffs on major Thai export items to the US market to offset its losses incurred from ailing intellectual property protection here.

As a country on the priority watch list, Thailand is subject to regular reviews by the USTR. What makes it vulnerable is that American industries may file complaints which may prompt the USTR to start a year-long investigation and retaliate.

Ministry Lodges Protest Against U.S. Subsidies

BK1704072291 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on told reporters that the Commerce Ministry has sent a letter to the U.S. secretary of agriculture to protest the U.S. Congress' decision to increase export subsidies for rice, and at the same time to urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture to oppose U.S. Congress efforts on this issue.

The U.S. Congress has decided to increase export subsidies for vegetable oil, poultry, and rice from U.S. $425 million to $900 million for the fiscal year 1991, resulting in unfair competition for trading of such goods in the world market, because it enables U.S. exporters to sell rice at a price lower than investment cost.

Meanwhile, the United States has already subsidized the export of its rice through other projects, such as short-term export credit guarantees and the Food for Peace Project.

Finance Minister Briefs Reporters on Trip to Laos

BK1604140291 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Briefing reporters on the results of his visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Finance Minister Suthi Singsane said that he has concluded an agreement with the Lao Goverment to develop the economies of the two countries. The finance minister told reporters upon his return from Laos on Sunday, 14 April, that his visit to Laos was part of the government's effort to promote the country's foreign policy. He said that he would reveal details of the agreement only after he has reported it to Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun. He stressed, however, that the agreement would be beneficial to both countries. Suthi said that he had discussed economic and technological cooperation with several senior Lao leaders, such as Khamsai Souphanouvong, minister of economy, planning, and finance, and the chairman of the Luang Prabang Administrative Committee.

Asked about whether changes in the Lao leadership will affect bilateral trade, the finance minister said that he did not know what the situation was in the past. However, trade between the two countries has increased now and is beneficial to the two sides.

Government Issues Note on Labor Relations Law

BK1704014991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Apr 91 p 4

["Full Text" of the Thai Government's "Explanatory Note" to Thai Embassies on Passage of the State Enterprise Labor Relations Law]

[Text] 1. The Thai Government has enacted the "State Enterprise Labour Relations Law," specifically for the state enterprise workers, the main objectives of which are to regulate the relations between the state enterprise workers and the Government, to provide for the establishment of the associations of the state enterprise workers, to lay down guidelines and procedures for the submission of the suggestions and the complaints regarding the workers' working conditions and benefits as well as to set up the final arbitrating mechanism.

This law is not aimed at depriving the state enterprise workers of their basic rights or eliminating the union movement but at increasing the efficiency of the state enterprises.

2. The reasons for the enactment of the State Enterprise Labour Relations Law are as follows:

2.1 Most of the state enterprises are responsible for providing essential public services such as water, electricity, communications and transportation, the disruptions of which would adversely affect the safety and the welfare of the general public.

2.2 State enterprises do not belong exclusively either to the public sector or the private sector. On the one hand, they are owned by the Government; on the other hand, they are supposed to be run like private companies. Consequently, what is needed is a specific and separate legislation that is tailored to meet the needs of the state enterprises.

3. The new law provides for the freedom and the right of the state enterprise workers to form associations and to negotiate their working conditions and benefits.

In this connection, the Government is in the process of drafting another legislation to protect the rights and the benefits of the state enterprise workers, an important feature of which is the establishment of a social security fund for the state enterprise workers from the budgets of the state enterprises without the requirement for the contributions from the state enterprise workers themselves.

At present, the state enterprise workers are required by the Social Security Law to contribute to the Social Security Fund.

4. The heart of the new law is the Joint Negotiation Committee (JNC) system which has been applied in most countries. This system provides for consultations between an equal number of the representatives of the workers and those of the management with a final arbitrator.

5. The new law permits the workers in each state enterprise to form an association to protect their rights and benefits regarding their work. Furthermore, the workers will be allowed to negotiate directly with the management regarding their working rights and benefits.

Previously, they can only submit their suggestions and complaints to the management who would decide whether to act on them or not. In case of complaints or suggestions with financial implications, the Ministry of Finance will make a final ruling.

6. The new law further provides for the establishment in each state enterprise of a tripartite labour relations committee with equal representation—about three to seven persons—from the management and the workers and headed by a neutral member from the board of that state enterprise. The functions of this committee are as follows:

6.1 Constult together with a view to issuing the rules and regulations regarding the working conditions in that state enterprise.

6.2. Consider the complaints of the workers regarding their rights and benefits in accordance with rules and regulations of that state enterprise.

6.3. Consider the suggestions of the state enterprise workers' association to improve the rights and the benefits of the workers, taking into consideration the financial constraints of that state enterprise, and possible impact on the services provided by that state enterprise to the public.

The said committee will pass on their recommendations regarding the complaints of the workers or the suggestions of the association to the authorities concerned. If the result of the committee's recommendations were to prove dissatisfactory to the workers or the association, they can further appeal to the "State Enterprise Labour Relations Committee."

7. The new law provides for the setting-up of the State Enterprise Labour Relations Committee at the national level headed by the Minister of Interior and consisting of the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Interior, the Comptroller-General, the Director-General of the Labour Department, five representatives of the state enterprise management, five representatives of the state enterprise associations, five labour relations experts and the Director of the Office of the State Enterprise Labour Relations Committee who also acts as the Secretary to the Committee.

This national committee will determine the standards of the rights and the benefits of the state enterprise workers and act as the final arbitrator on the complaints of the state enterprise workers or the suggestions of their associations. In particular those with financial impliations.

8. The new law also does not violate the 11 conventions and the 10 recommendations of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) which Thailand has ratified.

With respect to the three ILO conventions referred to during the debate in the National Legislative Assembly on 15 April 1991, namely, Conventions 87, 98 and 151, Thailand has not ratified these conventions. However, in general, Thailand has observed the principles and concepts regarding the internationally recognised workers' rights and freedom as evident in the enactment of the Labour Relations Law of 1975.

The Thai workers have enjoyed the rights and freedom to organise to negotiate their working conditions and benefits, and to appeal to an impartial arbitrator. Moreover, Thai labour organisations can freely maintain relations with foreign and international labour organisations without government intervention.

9. In summery, the new law provides for an objective and systematic process that the state enterprise workers could use to defend and advance their rights and benefits regarding their work. In the words of Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, this new law will benefit all 56 million Thai people who have to use the state enterprises' services. It will benefit the economy, the national stability as well as the state enterprise employees themselves.

Defense Ministry Denies Police Department Plan

BK1604144291 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] The Defense Ministry has denied any knowledge of the plan to put the Police Department under its wing. Defense Minister Admiral Praphat Kritsanachan denied the reported plan, saying he knew nothing about it.

Meanwhile, Deputy Defense Minister General Wimon Wongwanit also denied the reported plan, saying it was merely a rumor and that the issue could demoralize policemen.

[Begin Wimon recording, in progress] I think it is just a rumor [words indistinct].

[Unidentified correspondent] What is the purpose of the rumor?

[Wimon] There is no truth to it. It is just a rumor. There is no such plan.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Wimon] It is not true.

[Correspondent] The police department reportedly is studying the matter.

[Wimon] I don't know. You say the police are studying it, why are you asking me, a militaryman?

[Correspondent] As the deputy defense minister, could you comment?

[Wimon] There is no such plan. Nothing. The rumor is going to demoralize policemen. There is nothing. [end recording]

Officials Comment on Reported Plan

BK1604025991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Apr 91 pp 1, 3

[Text] Senior government officials yesterday made conflicting comments on the reported military wish for the Police Department to become part of the Armed Forces under the Defence Ministry.

Police Department chief Sawat Amonwiwat confirmed to reporters he had been instructed by Interior Minister Itsaraphong Nunphakdi to look into the possibility of transferring the police force to the jurisdiction of the Defence Ministry. But senior government officials, including Gen Itsaraphong, said they had no knowledge of the report.

Pol Gen Sawat told reporters during interviews at Parliament and at the Police Department he had received an instruction from Gen Itsaraphong in writing on Thursday to see if such transfer was possible. He said he had been told to forward the Police Department's view on the issue to the Interior Ministry yesterday.

Pol Gen Swat said that transferring the Police Department to the jurisdiction of the Defence Minister was a delicate matter because it involved at least two major changes—a change in the present police system and secondly a change in the judiciary process which involved the role of policemen. "I personally believe that we ned to study the Western judiciary process which is a jury system. In our system, policemen act as investigators working in coordination with the public prosecutors. If we are to introduce changes, we will need time to study the matter so that the changes will be appropriate to this country, geographically and socially," Pol Gen Sawat said.

"We need to look, geographically at Indonesia—why it is using this system (military-controlled police force) and why the Philippines which once used this system has given it up," he said.

Pol Gen Sawat said it was possible the Police Department would be transferred to fall under the jurisdiction of the Defence Ministry. "But we should conduct a survey and an analysis of what the public will think of the idea," Pol Gen Sawat said. Thailand, he said, has grown economically. "If we are really to go ahead with the restructuring of the Police Department, we will need to study and to allow the people to voice their opinion on the issue."

"Police have the duty to serve the people and not to control them. Therefore a study is needed on the pros and cons and the people's opinions are needed to be heard," he said. Pol Gen Sawat said he would seek approval from the Interior Ministry to allocate a fund to commission a national educational institution to study and to conduct a survey among the public and policemen to find out how they feel about the idea.

The Police Department chief yesterday assigned his deputy Ophat Rattanasin to chair a meeting of police executives to assess their opinions on the possible transfer of the police force to the Defence Ministry. Pol Gen Sawat said that no conclusive decision was reached at the meeting and he had already informed Gen Itsaraphong about what had been discussed yesterday.

Gen Itsaraphong, asked about the issue, said he had no plan to transfer the Police Department to the Defence Ministry. "Police have to be under the Interior Ministry. How can it be transferred to the Defence Ministry?" Gen Itsaraphong asked. Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, asked about the same issue, said he had not heard about any planned move.

Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan, while saying he had not been informed about the issue, expressed opposition to it Mr Michai said that the Police Department should be restructured to improve its efficiency, "but an attempt to transfer it to the Defence Ministry will not help improve anything."

Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong who is chairman of the National Peace-keeping Council said there was no actual move yet to transfer the Police Department to the Defence Ministry. "It appears that there's been an attempt to put the police against the military. Last week, there were news reports that the Police Academy would be placed under the Chulachomklao Minitary Academy."

Editorial on Possible Transfer

BK1604061991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Apr 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Study Needed on Police Changes"]

[Text] Just before the February 23 coup it looked as if the status of the Police Department was to be upgraded to a bureau or the same level as a ministry. But this now seems to have changed following the reports the National Peace-Keeping Council [NPKC] would like to make the department part of the armed forces under the Defence Ministry. Although senior officials including NPKC Chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong claim they have no knowledge of the matter, National Police Chief Sawat Amonwiwat yesterday confirmed he had been instructed by Interior Minister and NPKC Secretary-General Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi to study the transfer. It appears there is some basis to the reports.

In the absence of any confirmation from the NPKC, it can be assumed that part of the rationale behind the proposal is to improve discipline and efficiency of the national police force. There is little dispute that the department is in need of restructuring, not only to improve its efficiency but also to rid it of a corrupt and influence-infested image. But whether a transfer from the jurisdiction of Interior to Defence is the right solution is a totally different question and one that needs careful consideration.

It does not require any empirical research to establish the fact that corruption and vested interests are deep-rooted in the department's rank and file. The sight of a Bangkok traffic policeman hiding in the shade of a tree waiting to catch motorists violating traffic flow—is all too familiar. But in all fairness, not all traffic policemen are corrupt; many regularly perform a good job directing peak-hour traffic at busy streets.

Then again, it is common knowledge that a number of junior and middle-ranking officers both in Bangkok and the provinces are paid off by operators of illegal establishments such as gambling dens and brothels.

The root cause of petty traffic offence corruption or the taking of bribes and payoffs from vice den oeprators appears fairly simple: junior and middle-ranking policemen are not paid enough to make a decent living. The logical solution is to improve their salaries and welfare benefits to an extent that they can concentrate on performing their duties without having to worry about their own and their families' livelihood. Greater financial rewards should, of course, be accompanied by more stringent discipline. Severe penalties—not the traditional punishment of reassigning a wrongdoer from a "lucrative" posting to a remote station—will have to be meted out against corrupt or unscrupulous officers who are caught violating the rules.

Another aspect of the police force that requires improvement concerns the annual jockeying for positions of influence, a practice said to involve bribery of millions of baht. Politicians in past governments must be blamed in part for interfering in the annual appointments to senior police postings. The pattern was further aggravated in the previous Chatchai administration with the top police echelons appearing to be totally politicised and senior officers succumbing to the influence of politicians.

Again the logical solution appears to lie in a policy of noninterference by politicians, specifically the interior minister. There have been periods in recent memory when a politically-neutral interior minister together with a decisive police chief based promotions on a combination of seniority and capability, resulting in a disciplined and efficient police force. There is no reason why this could not be made to happen again.

Since the operations of the police force affect the lives of all sectors of society, the public too should be given a say on any changes to the roles, responsibility and status of their "servants and protectors." Police Chief Sawat Amonwiwat's suggestion yesterday to commission a national educational institute to survey opinions of both the public and the police on any transfer of the 170,000-strong police force from the Interior to the Defence Ministry is a sound suggestion that should be followed up.

King Grants Audience to Chatchai Chunhawan 16 Apr

BK1704021591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Apr 91 p 1

[Excerpt] Former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan was granted an audience with HM [His Majesty] the King at Chitlada Palace yesterday afternoon in what many believe could be a formal leave-taking.

Gen Chatchai arrived at the palace around 3.30 pm in his personal chauffeur-driven car without police escort. The former prime minister, scheduled to leave tomorrow for London where he had been living in exile since March, left the palace grounds at 5 pm. He was accompanied by his wife, Thanphuying Bunruen, and AVM [Air Vice Marshal] Damrong Phinchari.

Sources said the King had asked to see Chatchai, who was deposed in a bloodless coup by the military on Feb 23. Chatchai returned to Thailand last week to receive a high-class royal decoration. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

U.S. Policy, UN Plan on Cambodia Criticized

BK1704034691 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 16 Apr 91

["Article" by Duong Quang Minh]

[Text] Bangkok official sources revealed on 8 April that U.S. financial aid to the Cambodian opposition forces is likely to be halted within the next few months. The possible cessation of U.S. assistance may be the result of a political dispute in Washington between the U.S. Department of State and the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee as well as the 10 April testimonies on Cambodia in the Senate and House Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittees. At these debates, a number of U.S. senators charged that the money given as aid to the Cambodian opposition factions has fallen into the Khmer Rouge's hands, while many other senators of both the Democratic and Republican Parties strongly criticized the Bush administration for failing to take measures to exclude the genocidal Khmer Rouge from its assistance. The U.S. Administration is required by law to halt all aid to the Khmer Rouge because the latter committed mass murder against Cambodians during their rule from 1975 to 1979.

In its 11 April issue, THE WASHINGTON POST ran an article by its commentator, Mrs. Mary McGrory, which remarked that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon's open acknowledgement at a testimony by the House Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee on 10 April that genocide had taken place in Cambodia was big news.

During the testimony, when Republican representative Jim Leach of Iowa asked whether genocide had taken place in Cambodia, Solomon replied: Everything shows that genocide did occur. Solomon also affirmed that he has said the same thing in the past. According to the article, Solomon said that the U.S. would be very happy if Pol Pot was brought to trial. At the same testimony, Democratic Representative Chester Atkins called for the exclusion of the Khmer Rouge from the solution drafted by the five permanent member countries of the UN Security Council.

FRG newspaper BERLINER ZEITUNG on 5 April carried an article criticizing the UN peace plan, which provides for the disarmament of the warring sides and the holding of free elections in Cambodia through the intermediary of a UN agency. The article held that the plan contains weak points that doom it to failure, and that the plan also lacks the necessary conditions that guarantee the prevention of the Khmer Rouge's return to power. BERLINER ZEITUNG stressed: It is very naive indeed to assume that the butchers who massacred the Cambodian people will voluntarily lay down their arms and accept the result of an election that will surely be disastrous for them. Even in case they had, for tactical reasons, to accept a role through their ally, Mr. Sihanouk, the Khmer Rouge will continue to be a constant threat to Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge are intensifying their activities, and the situation is becoming increasingly serious because, in reality, the Phnom Penh Government has to completely stand on its own while the tripartite opposition coalition continues to receive financial aid and weapons from outside. The article concluded: This situation shows that a solution to the Cambodia issue is not yet in sight while international interest is waning. Obviously, people continue to be massacred daily in Cambodia in Khmer Rouge attacks, but few outside the country seem to care anymore. The Khmer Rouge are very ruthless, and it is true, as Western opinion maintains, that they cannot change their nature. The State of Cambodia has clearly seen this fact, and that is why it has ceaselessly heightened its vigilance and always stand ready to smash all their schemes and acts to defend its gains.

Speaking at a recent conference of the Training and Propaganda Department of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRC] Central Committee, Heng Samrin, president of the State of Cambodia and general secretary of the KPRC Central Committee, stressed: With high determination and with close unity, the Cambodian people can firmly defend all the revolutionary gains they have recorded over the past 12 years. President Heng Samrin highlighted the vigorous development of the Cambodian revolutionary Armed Forces in defending their own country since the total withdrawal of Vietnamese army volunteers from Cambodia. At the same time, he clearly pointed to the difficulties the party, Armed Forces, and people of Cambodia will have to face in the future. He emphasized: The struggle will be even harder because the enemies have not renounced their scheme to overthrow the Cambodian Government and return the genocidal Pol Pot clique to power in Cambodia.

U.S. Congressional Testimony on Cambodia Reported

BK1704032691 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] On 10 and 11 April 1991 in Washington, two testimonies were given at the Asia Pacific Subcommittee of the External Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives and at the Asia Pacific Subcommittee of the U.S. Congress on the Cambodian issue.

Most of the senators and members of the House of Representatives presumed that a solution on Cambodia issue is facing difficulties because the draft agreement of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council is not fair and that it is necessary to review the draft to pay more attention to the Phnom Penh government's concerns.

The senators criticized the U.S. Government for not seriously implementing the Congress' resolution.

The aim of the U.S. is the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia, the prevention of return to office of the Khmer Rouge, and the implementation of the right of self determination of the Cambodian people.

Now the Vietnamese have withdrawn their forces so the first U.S. aim must be the prevention the Khmer Rouge to take office in Cambodia. But the United States took part positively in drafting the agreement which was completely supported by China and the Khmer Rouge, because it cooperates with the Khmer Rouge and gives them a chance to strengthen their military and political forces.

Senator Atkins accused the U.S. Government of using the Khmer Rouge as an instrument against Vietnam and called for the elimination of the Khmer Rouge in a solution on Cambodia.

The draft does not directly condemn the homicidal regime and allows homicidal criminals such as Son Sen to be in the Supreme National Council, SNC. Therefore it is completely supported by the Khmer Rouge.

The U.S. senators said that it is about time to detach the Cambodian issue from U.S.-Vietnamese relations, to directly talk to Cambodian Government on the matters of U.S. concern such as preventing the return to office of the Khmer Rouge, the refugees at the border, a solution to the civil war, and to negotiate with Vietnam on missing Americans, the frozen assets, the trade, and the normalization of the two countries.

It is about time for the U.S. to give up the policy of self-isolation and punishment of U.S. businessmen while all other countries are doing a great deal of business with Vietnam and neglecting the U.S. trade embargo.

The representative of the U.S. Government had to admit that the U.S. is sympathetic toward the Phnom Penh government concerning the danger of the Khmer Rouge, that the U.S. continued to condemn the homicidal regime, and that if the related sides can reach agreement, the U.S. will prepare to issue a separate statement on this issue.

On 25 April, the External Affairs Committee of the Congress will have a testimony on U.S.-Vietnamese relations.

Article Comments on Japanese-Cambodian Relations

BK1704095391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Hoai Thu's article: "The Japanese Government's Relations With the State of Cambodia"]

[Text] Japan recently agreed to grant the first humanitarian aid of over $1 million to the Cambodian Government. Bangkok-based Japanese diplomats said this is the first time Japan has set aside 20 percent of its total aid of $11.3 million in the current fiscal year for the benefit of the Phnom Penh government. Of this $1 million-plus aid package, $1 million will be earmarked for homeless Cambodians and $370,000 will be spent for other relief activities, including healthcare.

This move by the Japanese Government is a new development in the wake of its previous acts of goodwill. Last summer, the Japanese Government opened its door to welcome all the Cambodian sides to Tokyo for further talks on achieving a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian issue. When the Pol Pot faction boycotted the talks, Japan stood its ground and helped the meeting achieve results. It was also at this meeting that the setting up of a Supreme National Council of Cambodia [SNC]—with the State of Cambodia and the government of Democratic Kampuchea holding a equal number of six seats—was discussed for the first time. It was on the basis of the Tokyo joint communique between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk that the SNC was founded in Jakarta three months later.

The fact that the Japanese prime minister held talks with Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Minister of the State of Cambodia—a state not yet recognized by Japan—on his visit to Tokyo, caused a big stir among Japanese opinion. The Japanese held that the talks reflected the government's respect for the Phnom Penh government and Tokyo's resolve to make fresh efforts to achieve peace in Cambodia. Prime Minister Kaifu expressed his hope that the agreements reached at the Tokyo meeting will be upheld at other international forums such as the Paris Conference on Cambodia and that a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian issue will be achieved gradually.

In the wake of the Tokyo talks on Cambodia, on 10 August 1990, Mr. Yukio Imagawa, a high-ranking official of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, arrived in Phnom Penh on an eight-day fact-finding tour of the country. At about the same time, a Japanese delegation led by Mr. Watanabe, member of the Liberal Democratic Party and former minister of finance and international trade and industry visited Cambodia. During its four-day stay, the delegation toured the Angkor Wat Temple, the Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocidal Crimes, and many economic and cultural establishments in Phnom Penh. It highly appreciated the achievements recorded by the Cambodian people in all fields.

The Japanese newspaper AKAHATA has run many articles highlighting the overall achievements of the Cambodian people over the past 11 years. In one article, the paper stressed: The Japanese Government will continue to cooperate with Cambodia in healing its war wounds and rebuilding the country. On its part, the State of Cambodia welcomes Japan's contributions. Of course, it also hopes that Japan will adopt a clearer stance on the question of excluding the genocidal Pol Pot clique because, as progressive Japanese opinion has affirmed, there can be no excuse for the genocidal clique's crimes, nor can be any reason for continuing to maintain its political role. The State of Cambodia has also asked Japan to acquire a more correct perception of the real situation in Cambodia, where the State of Cambodia is leading the revival of the Cambodian people after Pol Pot's genocide and has recorded many achievements in domestic affairs and foreign relations.

Nguyen Van Linh Receives Cambodian Ambassador

BK1104160991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] On 10 April, Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, received the Cambodian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to our country, who paid a courtesy call on him. The general secretary had cordial talks with the ambassador and asked him to convey his regards to the leaders of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party. He wished the ambassador successful accomplishment of his duties in Vietnam, thereby contributing to consolidating and strengthening the special relations of solidarity and friendship between the two parties and peoples.

Also present at the reception was Trinh Ngoc Thai, deputy director of the International Department of the CPV Central Committee.

Nguyen Khanh Attends Education Meeting

BK1404152391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] A Vietnam radio correspondent reported that from 1 to 4 March [as heard] in Hanoi, the Ministry of Education and Training held a meeting to review the implementation of the three activity programs of vocational middle schools and work-study schools over the last three years. Comrade Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, attended and addressed the meeting.

In the four working days, the meeting devoted a lot of time to providing opinions on past performance and difficulties encountered by the vocational middle schools and work-study schools and suggested measures to be implemented in the future.

Over the last three years, most of the vocational middle schools and work-study schools have gradually moved in the direction of development and training to meet the new requirements of the multisector commodity economy and the market-oriented system.

The pluralization of training forms together with the strengthening of standardization have fulfilled the needs of education, particularly the needs of the vocational training of youths.

The relationship between the vocational schools and business work through productive and service activities has created many jobs for students. That not only maintains the student's practical quality but also creates some funds to improve the schools' establishments, and to enhance the livelihood of teachers, students, and cadres and staff.

However, the three activity programs have not been applied quickly enough in some schools and have not been understood fully. The standardization of renovation policies in some schools is still slow, thus causing some limitations on the good effects for society.

Council Issues Decision on Settlement of Debts

BK1404130191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] In order to solve the problem of old debts and capital usurpation, to liberate capital, and to meet business requirements, the chairman of the Council of Ministers has issued Decision No. 88 on the settlement of debts between offices and economic organizations.

The steering committee of the Central Organization for Debt Settlement has been formed and consists of seven comrades. The central organization is led by Comrade Vo Van Kiet, first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, as president, with Cao Sy Kiem, governor of the State Bank, and Hoang Quy, minister of finance, as vice presidents.

The steering committee of the Central Organization for Debt Settlement has the duty of planning and directing debt settlement and taking part in formulating the financial credit regulations of state-owned enterprises and banks.

Ministries and sectors that oversee state enterprises are to form their own section of debt settlement, and these sections will work under the instructions of the steering committee of the Central Organization for Debt Settlement. Provinces, cities, special zones, districts, wards, and towns will also form their own local sections of debt settlement.

The steering committee of the central organization and the local sections will base their offices in local state banks at the same level and will have their own organization's official stamps. The work of a particular member will be signed by that member and stamped with that member's office stamp. The decision on debt settlement will take effect from 30 March 1991.

Council Sets Up International Culture Committee

BK1504120091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers Chairman on 5 April issued decision No. 97-CT establishing the National Committee for International Culture Development Decade 1988-97. According to the decision, this committee will coordinate with agencies concerned and international organizations to formulate programs of actions to implement tasks and objectives of the international cultural development decade.

The National Committee for International Culture Development Decade is chaired by Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers. Dinh Quang, vice minister of culture, information, sports and tourism, and Nguyen Duy Lien, deputy chairman of Vietnam UNESCO Committee, serve as vice chairmen, while representatives of specialized agencies and organizations concerned were appointed as members.

The office of the committee's standing body is situated at the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Tourism. It is responsible for organizing and regulating activities of the committee.

Council Approves Afforestation, Power Plant Plan

BK1504115091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers on 2 April issued a decision approving a project on afforestation at the Tra Khuc River mouth and building the Thach Nham hydroelectric power plant.

The decision clearly specified the location, boundary, and objectives of the project which includes efforts to plant more than 1,400 hectares of forest trees to protect a cultivated area of 49,800 hectares near the river mouth. The project will combine afforestation with the planting of long- and short-term industrial crops to create favorable conditions for the settlement of more than 14,500 households of nomads in the region and to receive another 4,700 families from the delta area.

The state invests 5,000 million dong in this project which will be completed in 1995.

Council Urges Areas To Improve Information Work

BK1504120491 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers Chairman on 4 April instructed sectors and localities throughout the country to accelerate and improve the scientific-technological information service.

The instruction clearly defined the duties of scientific-technological information service agencies which include efforts to promptly and consistently provide news and information on scientific-technological innovations to construction and production establishments to help them effectively implement strategies and plans on socioeconomic development.

The directive also urged scientific-technological information service agencies to coordinate with other mass media agencies to extensively disseminate scientific-technological innovations to sectors concerned and to provide information on results of the application of these innovations by industrial establishments.

North Newspapers Hold Seminar To Improve Quality

BK1504100791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] On 2-3 March, the paper HA BAC and other newspapers of party organizations of northern provinces and cities held a seminar under the theme "continue to improve the quality of newspapers to serve the renovation cause."

Attending the seminar were high-ranking officials of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Ideology and Culture Department, representatives from the central newspapers department, and journalists from news agencies at the central and provincial levels.

Delegates to the seminar were of the opinion that against the background of difficulties at home and complicated changes abroad, news agencies and journalists at the central and provincial levels must strive to heighten their role, strengthen their firm political stance, and contribute to stabilizing and maintaining social order and safety.

Many delegates exchanged their experiences in covering and reporting news as well as in coordinating with journalists of other agencies to promptly and accurately present news and information to the public, thereby contributing to improving the socioeconomic life of the people.

4th Military Region Holds 1st Round Congress

BK1404111191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] The paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN reported that the 4th Military Region held its first round fifth party organization congress recently to discuss and contribute ideas to the party draft documents to be presented at the upcoming Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress.

During its five-day sitting, delegates to the congress made 67 suggestions to the five draft party documents after animated discussions. Almost all delegates were of the opinion that the platform on socialist construction is essential at present because it helps chart the orientations for our party and people to triumphantly advance toward socialism.

Chapter four of the draft platform deals with national defense, security, and foreign policy. As a result, delegates carefully discussed this chapter at length. Almost 94 percent of the delegates to the congress suggested that the national defense and security domains be condensed into one separate chapter, because the nature and activities of these domains are different from that of foreign policy. All delegates agreed that the national defense task should be rewritten because what appears in the platform does not truly manifest the principle of building the all-people national defense to protect the fatherland—one of the two strategic tasks of the Vietnamese revolution in the present stage.

The congress expressed concern on the degradation in society at present. Many delegates contended that the party and state, during the past period, failed to do their best to strengthen human resources. The congress suggested that the state should allot more funding to improve the education, public health, and cultural domains as well as the strategy to promote human resources, and that the state should create more jobs for laborers and youth, particularly discharged soldiers. These are people that the party and state should pay special attention to helping so as to stabilize their daily lives as soon as possible.

Delegates also discussed frankly the two draft reports on the task of party building and on revising party regulations.

They analyzed the pros and cons of these reports in a rational and frank fashion, thereby providing many valuable suggestions.

Generally speaking, the 4th Military Region party organization congress resulted in an identity of views on the party draft documents. However, due to the high sense of responsibility, the congress suggested that all issues related to concepts, thoughts, and principles should be clearly presented to assert our party's attitude and stance on these issues, especially in the current complicated situation.

Ministry Sets Up New Oil Transportation Company

BK1604131891 Hanoi VNA in English 1221 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 16—The Ministry of Communications, Transport and Posts has set up the Vietnam Natural Gas and Oil Joint Corporation with the participation of the Vietnam National Oil Equipment and Technique Import Corporation (Petechim) and the Vietnam Sea Transport and Chartering Corporation (Vietranchart).

The corporation will transport Vietnam's crude oil to foreign countries, chiefly Japan and Singapore, and refined oil from foreign countries to Vietnam.

VNA on First Quarter Rice Planting Countrywide

BK1704101091 Hanoi VNA in English 0645 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 17—Farmers throughout the country in the first quarter of 1991 planted 2,127,000 hectares of winter- spring rice, up by 0.6 percent over planned targets, reports the General Department of Statistics.

Of the above-said total acreage, 1,061,500 hectares are in northern provinces (from Thua Thien-Hue northwards), and 1,066,100 in southern provinces. In the Mekong River Delta, the major rice producer of the country, the acreage increases by 8.3 percent to 821,000 hectares over the same crop last year.

According to the initial evaluation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, the winter-spring rice is growing well thanks to timely sowing and adequate supply of water and fertilizer. Eighty percent of the crop acreage are covered with high-yield varieties.

The harvest of this crop has begun in some southern provinces. The paddy yield in Ben Tre averages 3.1 [metric] tons per hectare, up by 3 percent over the previous crop; Tien Giang, 4.5 tons per hectare; and Cuu Long, 4.9 tons per hectare.

Australia

Evans Delineates Ties With Taiwan, PRC

BK1704090591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0836 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Melbourne, April 17 (AFP)—Australia will continue to forge closer economic ties with Taiwan without becoming involved in the rivalry between the nationalist island and communist China, Australia's Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Wednesday.

He told a China-Australia business forum that while China should not worry about pressure on Australia by pro-Taiwan interests, it should expect Australia to vigorously pursue its commercial interests in Taiwan.

On the other hand, he said Taiwan should be content to have the respect and admiration of Australians for its achievements, as well as the material benefits of an economic partnership.

"Australia cannot be expected to countenance concessions of a diplomatic or political nature which imply recognition of Taiwan as a separate political entity," Mr. Evans said.

"So long as that is appreciated, we should be able to conduct wholly productive relations with our Chinese friends on both sides of the Taiwan Straits."

He was speaking on the eve of his first visit to Beijing since the June 1989 Beijing massacre. The visit will mark the end of economic sanctions imposed by Australia on China following the massacre of pro-democracy protestors.

During this two year period, Taiwan and Australia—much to China's displeasure—have strengthened economic links.

At the same time, Taiwan has tried to exploit the freeze in Australia's relations with China to win political and diplomatic concessions from Canberra.

Mr. Evans defended Australia's growing ties with Taiwan, which was set to become one of the world's ten largest traders by the end of the century. Since 1983, Australia-Taiwan trade had tripled to 3.5 billion (2.7 billion U.S.) a year.

It had done so without stepping back from its recognition of the Peoples' Republic of China as the legitimate Chinese Government and its acknowledgment that Taiwan was part of China.

However Taiwan's nationalist or Kuomintang government also claims to be the legitimate ruler of all China. The nationalists fled to Taiwan from the mainland after losing a civil war to the communists in 1949.

While its commitment to a one-China policy remained fundamental, Australia believed the issue of Taiwan's reunification with the mainland was a matter for Chinese people.

But Australia would resist pressure to become involved in the competition for influence which "sadly still characterises the relations between the authorities of the PRC and Taiwan".

Mr. Evans, who is also visiting Hong Kong, warned Australia would be concerned about any attempt to undermine confidence in Hong Kong, due to become a special administrative region of China in 1997.

"We would be very concerned at any developments, economic or political, which undermine either international confidence in the future of Hong Kong, or the confidence of the people of Hong Kong themselves," he said.

Spokesman Remarks on Bush 'Safe Havens' for Kurds

BK1704064691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0503 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Canberra, April 17 (AFP)—Australia has not been asked to send military assistance to the proposed Kurdish security zones in Iraq, but supports the principle of "safe havens" for Kurds, a spokesman for Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Wednesday.

"There has been no direct request to Australia," the spokesman said, adding that U.S. President George Bush's call for coalition support was probably aimed at other countries.

Mr. Bush announced Wednesday U.S. forces would begin setting up protective zones in northern Iraq for Kurdish refugees to allow easier distribution of food, medicine and clothing to them.

The president warned Iraq not to interfere with the effort.

Mr. Evans' spokesman said it was too early to give a specific government view of the Bush initiative, but added it was Australia's general view that it supported the principle of "safe havens" for the Kurds inside Iraq.

"Anything which relieves the plight of the Kurds, and allows them to return to their homes, is welcomed," he said.

New Caledonia

Fiji Economic Minister on Increased Cooperation

BK1404033291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0033 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Noumea, April 13 (AFP)—Fiji is interested in stepping up economic cooperation with New Caledonia, notably in the fields of livestock raising and fish farming, visiting Commerce Minister Berenado Vunibobo said Saturday.

Speaking at the end of a four-day official visit to this French overseas territory, Mr. Vunibobo said Fiji was interested in New Caledonia's shrimp and cattle raising industries while Noumea was interested in Fiji's sheep raising industry.

Fiji's total annual exports amount to 345 million U.S. dollars, with 1.3 million dollars' worth of goods headed for New Caledonia.

But the Fijian minister said increasing trade with New Caledonia was linked to a tariff accord with Fiji which Noumea will seek Paris's approval to discuss directly with Fiji.

Papua New Guinea

Namaliu Says Bougainville Raid Not Approved

BK1704084591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0747 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Port Moresby, April 17 (AFP)—A weekend landing by Papua New Guinea troops on rebel-held Bougainville Island was made without government approval, Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu said Wednesday.

In a statement after a meeting of the National Security Council [NSC], Mr. Namaliu said "it would appear" that the landing by about 40 troops "was made at the direct request of the local chiefs, but that it is something which the council must fully establish."

The statement did not say whether the troops would be withdrawn, but Mr. Namaliu also said: "I am informed that they have begun initial steps to restore facilities in the area."

The government has provided no services on Bougainville since March last year, when its forces withdrew after prolonged fighting with the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA).

The council was briefed by a military commander who was ordered back to the capital to explain the weekend raid which led to a shootout with rebels.

The clash was the first between Papua New Guinea troops and the BRA since the Honiara Peace Declaration signed in the Solomon Islands on January 23.

It appeared to have caught everyone from Mr. Namaliu to senior defence staff by surprise and raised questions here about what was behind it.

Mr. Namaliu said that he learned only on his return from China on Tuesday that troops had landed Saturday on Bougainville and blown a bridge at Manetei in the centre of the island.

The officer summoned to brief the security council on the incident, Colonel Leo Nuia, is in charge of troops on the smaller island of Buka, which was recaptured in September.

Mr. Namaliu said that the council would consider reports on the landing from Defence Minister Ben Sabumei and senior defence staff including Col. Nuia.

"It was clear the landing had been made without the approval of the NSC or relevant ministers," the statement went on.

"The defence force personnel have not been engaged in any military operations since the landing and there have been no casualties."

Bougainville Commander Recalled After Raid

BK1704072491 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] In Papua New Guinea, the commander of the Bougainville task force has been ordered to return to Port Moresby to explain the unauthorized weekend raid by the military on the Bougainville Island.

The defense minister, Mr. Benais Sabumei, said he has directed Colonel (Leo Nuier) to appear before the National Security Council to brief it on the operation. On Saturday the Papua New Guinea Defense Force attacked the main camp of the Bougainvile Revolutionary Army and a strategic bridge in the north of the island.

Mr. Sabumei said it is important to establish all the facts from Col. (Nuier) before the government can respond appropriately.

Yesterday, the provincial affairs minister, Father John Momis, condemned the government over the attack saying it jeopardized his peace efforts on Bougainville and called for the dismissal of whoever ordered or authorized the raid.

Deputy Prime Minister Suspended for Misconduct

BK1704055691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0315 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Port Moresby, April 17 (AFP)—Papua New Guinea's Deputy Prime Minister Ted Diro was suspended from ministerial and parliamentary duties Wednesday after being formally charged with misconduct in office.

He did not appear before the leadership tribunal at which his suspension was announced, but had said previously he would vigorously contest the 76 charges against him.

Supreme Court Judge Justice Arnold Amet, who heads the three- member tribunal which includes two senior magistrates, adjourned the case to May 6 for a pre-trial hearing.

Justice Amet said under Papua New Guinea law Mr. Diro was automatically suspended from office once the charges were formally referred to the tribunal by the public prosecutor's office.

"The leader alleged to have committed these charges of misconduct in office is hereby suspended from duty as deputy prime minister, minister for public service and as a member of parliament," Justice Amet told the half-hour hearing.

Justice Amet said it "might have been preferable" if Mr. Diro had been present at the hearing, but Mr. Diro's lawyer, Maurice Laufa, said he had advised his client not to attend because the hearing was only a formality.

Most of the charges stem from evidence given to an inquiry conducted by Australian Judge Tos Barnett into the forestry industry, which uncovered evidence of widespread corruption and abuse.

One of its findings was that the then Indonesian Defence Chief Benny Murdani gave Mr. Diro a total of 139,000

U.S. dollars to help fund the 1987 election campaign for Mr. Diro's people's action party.

At the time he allegedly accepted the donations, Mr. Diro, a former defence force commander, was foreign affairs minister, and had earlier held the forests portfolio.

Prosecutor Sarea Soi submitted the charges and the statements of reasons, appended by six volumes of exhibits, three volumes of interim reports from the forests inquiry, and two volumes of transcripts of Mr. Diro's evidence to the forests inquiry.

The formal referring of the charges followed a 16-month investigation by Papua New Guinea's ombudsman commission.

Tonga

Parliament Leaders: King Close To Losing Power

BK1704021291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0113 GMT 17 Apr 91

[By Michael Field]

[Text] Nuku'alofa, April 17 (AFP)—Tonga's two leading pro-democracy MPs [members of Parliament] have warned that King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, the all-mighty monarch of this South Pacific nation, risks being stripped of his powers.

But they disagree on how it will happen.

One, 'Akilisi Pohiva, believes it may come down to a revolt.

"When all the constitutional provisions are exhausted, when everything else fails, human beings will revolt," he said this week in an interview.

The other MP, lawyer Luki Niu, believes change will be peaceful and gradual.

"Before we had what Tongans call 'grumbling by the umu (oven)' ..., but now people are standing up and speaking out," he said in a separate interview.

Both men have spent the last three years in the courts and parliament battling the royalist-dominated government.

Their most recent battle with the government was over the king's bid to sell Tongan nationality to mainly Hong Kong and Taiwan Chinese and the exiled Marcos family of the Philippines.

Mr. Pohiva's challenge in the Tongan high court last month resulted in the government's passing laws amending the Constitution to retroactively legalise the sales.

It also led to an unprecedented march on the royal palace by 1,500 people calling for the dismissal of Immigration Minister 'Akau'ola and the repeal of the laws.

Sources present at the protest meeting on March 8 said the speeches, out of earshot of the palace, had a militant tone.

"One man asked 'how can we arrange for tanks?' And I thought he was joking, but everybody clapped," one source said.

Tonga, a group of 169 islands some 800 kilometres (500 miles) east of Fiji, is home to around 100,000 Polynesians.

The supreme body here is the privy council which comprises the king, the nine member cabinet he appoints for life and the governors of the island groups of Vava'u and Ha'apai.

Parliament consists of the cabinet, nine representatives of the 33 nobles and nine representatives elected every three years by commoners who traditionally make up the minority.

Mr. Pohiva said he was running out of options after numerous court battles and attempts in parliament to make the government accountable to the people.

"Normal human beings cannot wait for their leaders forever to do the right thing," he said, adding that the people would rise up when they saw they had no alternatives.

He predicted that by 1995 Tonga's government would be very different from that of today.

He said he prefered a constitutional monarchy similar to Britain's but added that he did not rule out a republican form of government.

"The problem is that his majesty is so isolated and too far removed from reality."

He said the king had been petitioned twice on "very basic demands" and had given no response.

Mr. Niu echoed Mr. Pohiva in saying that change was not far away.

"The government will have to bend and will have to change, and the nobles will give way."

He said Tonga's first king wrote a constitution in 1875, presented it to the people and rulers ever since have ignored it.

"Now this king is faced with the fact that the commoners have found the document and are holding it up to him," Mr. Niu said.

How the change occurs is largely in the king's hands, he said, adding that the people had suffered injustice for the last decade and their accumulated grievances would eventually prompt them to demand change.

"The king must realize there is going to be a last straw," Mr. Niu said. But he added that the change would probably be peaceful.

"The people themselves have been restrained and there is more enlightenment now in the ruling classes, among the nobles, ministers and even among the ruling family," he said.